ENTERTAINMENT / A2-1

Dollywood:
John Estrada sports a new butt

ACROSS / A13

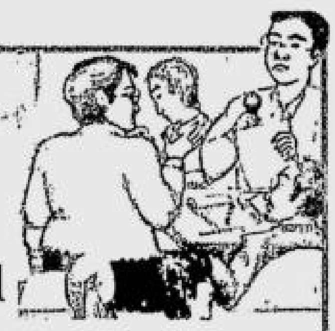
Central Visayas wages
up P10-P18; Cordillera increase assailed

NEWS/A8

GMA now in Libya
for state visit, meets Gadhafi

NEWS/ A2

Driver refuses
to testify at Subic rape trial



Impeach proponents hoping for miracle

By Michael Lim Ubac

LEADERS OF A CITIZEN-BACKED IMPEACHMENT movement are resigned that only a miracle can unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Even House Minority Leader Francis Escudero and Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, who led the bungled opposition effort to impeach Ms Arroyo last year on charges she stole the 2004 election,

IMPEACH/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Tuesday, July 18, 2006 ★★ 4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 220 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Ferry restores equality of sexes on isle—a bit

MARADO, SOUTH KOREA—Besides being the Korean peninsula's southernmost point, this windswept, treeless islet was long famous, in these parts at least, for its strong women and docile men.

DI NA SILA PAMBAHAY LANG!

FERRY/ A4

CLUTCHING her pillows, Mariam Shihabiyah, 39, a divorced mother of five, leaves a bombed area of the southern suburbs where her apartment is situated in Beirut, Lebanon. She returned to salvage her belongings, minutes before another series of air strikes hit the place. AP

OFWs in Beirut flee to churches

Israeli fighter planes set Lebanon ablaze

BEIRUT, LEBANON—FIGHTER bombers pummeled Lebanese infrastructure on Monday, setting harbors and fuel storage tanks ablaze, as Israel showed it would make the Lebanese government pay dearly for not curbing Hezbollah guerrillas.

But Hezbollah guerrillas retaliated by firing rockets that flew further into Israel than ever before, with Katyusha rockets landing in the town of Atlit, 10 km south of Haifa. Nobody was hurt in the Monday attack, but Hezbollah rockets had killed eight people in Haifa on Sunday.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert vowed "far-reaching consequences" for the Haifa attack, Hezbollah's deadliest strike ever on Israel during the past six days of violence.

ISRAELI/ A6

Evacuation plans put on hold—DFA

By Nikko Dizon and Jerome Aning

USING WARSHIPS, CRUISE ships, military planes and chartered aircraft, governments across the world yesterday scrambled to evacuate their nationals trapped in Lebanon.

The Philippines, without such resources, appealed to the Vatican to allow Filipinos to seek refuge in Catholic churches in that embattled mainly Muslim country.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in Lebanon, who number about 34,000, were being relocated to predesignated safe areas in that country.

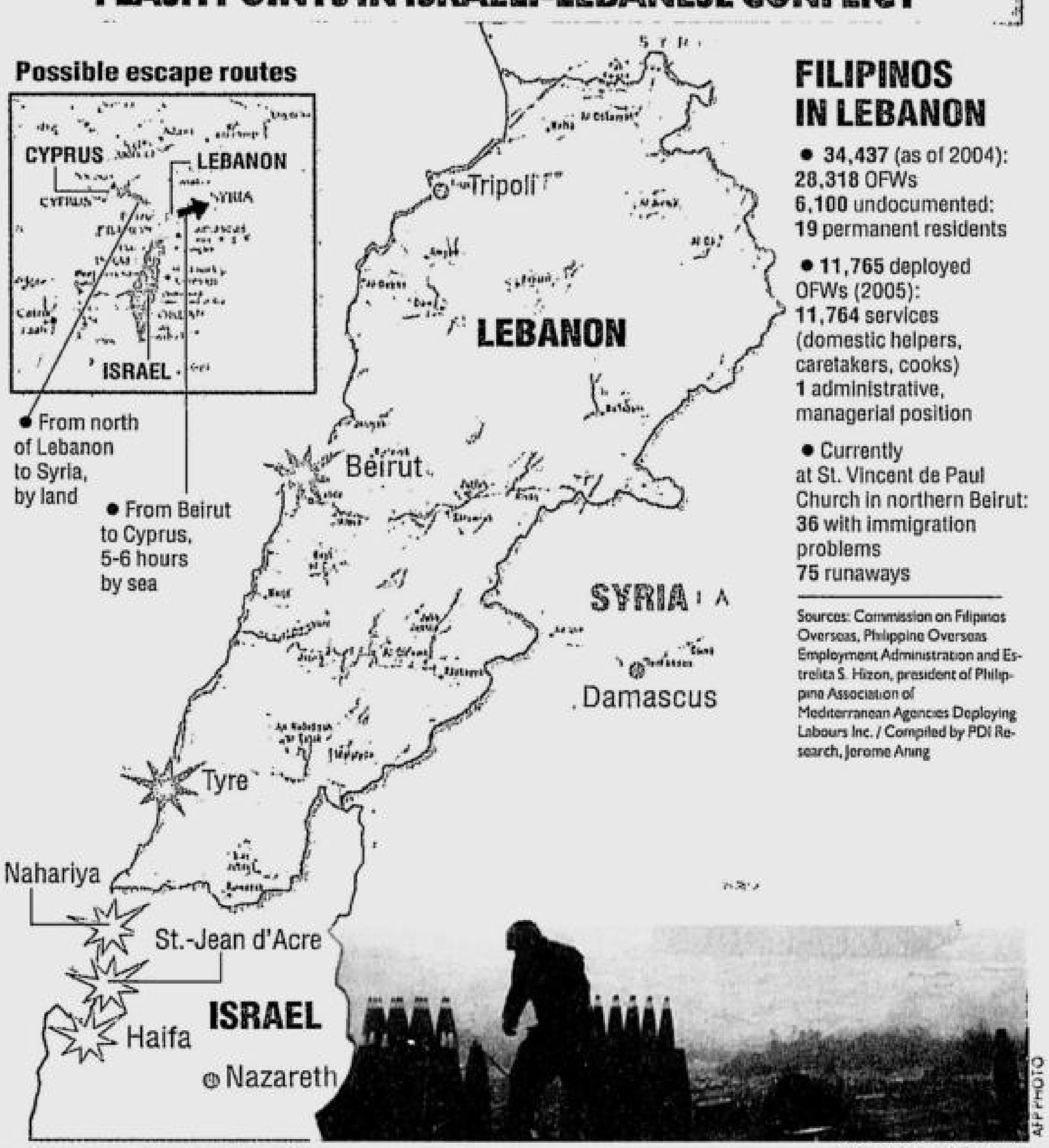
"Our countrymen will be moved to areas where the embassy can ensure their safety, such as Catholic parishes and churches," he said.

Romulo said the government had asked the Vatican's envoy in the Philippines, Archbishop Fernando Filoni, to allow the Filipinos in Lebanon to use its churches and other facilities in Lebanon.

"We are not evacuating out of

OFWs/ A6

FLASH POINTS IN ISRAELI-LEBANESE CONFLICT



FILIPINOS IN LEBANON

- **34,437** (as of 2004): **28,318** OFWs **6,100** undocumented: **19** permanent residents
- **11,765** deployed OFWs (2005): **11,764** services (domestic helpers, caretakers, cooks) **1** administrative, managerial position
- Currently at St. Vincent de Paul Church in northern Beirut: **36** with immigration problems **75** runaways

Sources: Commission on Filipinos Overseas, Philippine Overseas Employment Administration and Estrelita S. Hizon, president of Philippine Association of Mediterranean Agencies Deploying Labours Inc. / Compiled by PDI Research, Jerome Aning

INQFOGRAPHIC ESAMBO

AN ISRAELI soldier rushes to reload a mobile artillery unit after it fired 155mm shells toward Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon. AFP

DOJ inaction on Bolante case assailed

By Philip C. Tubeza

SEN. RAMON MAGSAYSAY JR. yesterday slammed the "ominous silence and inaction" of the Department of Justice and the Ombudsman on the case of Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante, the agriculture undersecretary who allegedly used a P728-million fertilizer fund to finance President Macapagal-Arroyo's election in 2004.

Bolante has reportedly been detained at the US immigration facility in Los Angeles since July 7 over unspecified visa problems.

Yesterday, Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Gilberto Asuque said Bolante had requested that his case be treated as a private affair and that he did not need government assistance.

Magsaysay, chair of the Senate investigation into the fertilizer fund scam, said the DOJ, the Ombudsman and the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission should have pursued Bolante now. He said DOJ officials should have already made inquiries with their counterparts in the United States to find out what had happened to Bolante and ensure that he did not disappear again.

"They should follow up this case and inform the people because this is an issue involving

DOJ/ A15

Coup probers summon Erap in-law, ex-attaché

By Luige A. del Puerto and Armand N. Nocum

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE has asked Manuel "Beaver" Lopez, a son-in-law of ousted President Joseph Estrada, and labor attaché Reynaldo Parungao to appear in an investigation of an alleged plot to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In a separate probe, the National Bureau of Investigation said that businessman Iñigo Zobel was scheduled for interview at 10 a.m. today at the NBI, construction magnate Felipe F. Cruz tomorrow, and ABC-5 television network chair Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco on Thursday.

The invitations to Lopez and Parungao were sent by the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, police sources disclosed yesterday on condition of anonymity, adding that they were not the authorized spokespersons.

Lopez, 38, scion of one of the country's wealthiest families, headed the Saludo sa Kawal Pilipino Foundation. It has previously acknowledged providing financial aid to families of the so-called Magdalo soldiers that staged the 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

Ferdie Ramos, an Estrada press officer, said he had asked Lopez for comment on the PNP report.

Parungao, 58, is a senior official of the Department of Labor and Employment, who is reportedly close to former Ambassador Roy Señeres, who is also a former

COUP/ A15

JOB EMPLOYMENT EXPO 2006
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INQUIRER JOB FAIR RYAN LIM

Vice President Noli de Castro and Philippine Daily Inquirer chair Marixi Prieto formally open the INQUIRER Employment Expo 2006 at the Glorietta activity center. The three-day event is expected to draw at least 20,000 job seekers.

Mayon rumbling continues; villagers recall 1993 blast

By Ephraim Aguilar
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—THERE IS NOT A SIGN OF fear in their faces as they go about their simple ways of living. But the villagers of Bonga have known the terror of living in the shadow of one of the Philippines' killer volcanoes.

Village secretary Carmen Azul still vividly remembers what happened to her neighbors when Mount Mayon erupted in 1993.

"I heard the people yelling, I thought there was a street fight, until I saw people covered with ash, their skins burned," she told the INQUIRER.

"They had come from the foot of the volcano to farm or tend to their livestock. Some were still alive when I saw them but they were crying in pain because of their burns."

The others were beyond care.

"They were already stiff and dead," Azul said. "I was just thankful my husband did not go out to farm that day and just stayed home."

The ghastly memories came back to Azul yesterday as the 2,474-meter volcano continued to rumble and scientists warned of the danger of another possibly major blast.

Besides the increased seismic activity from Mayon, volcanologists also noted that the stream of lava from the summit had rolled 800 meters down from the summit.

One also could not see any trace of concern in the faces of Bonga's children but they also knew of the danger of living close to Mayon, some 7 km away from their village.

Their parents had told them what it was like.

"It is dangerous ... If it explodes, we will leave this place and go to Gogon (a designated evacuation center)," 7-year-old Jessa said as she played with other kids on a dusty road.

Me-Ann, another child, said she would run as fast and as far as her legs would carry her. She said her mother had told her of what happened in 1993.

Benjamin Esquivel, village chief of Bonga, recalled the eruption was so sudden that the villagers did not have time to prepare.

Many farmers, including Esquivel's two brothers, were working on the fields when they were hit by a mass of fiery ash from the

MAYON/ A4

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming frequent rains which may trigger flashfloods and landslides over Aurora and Quezon provinces, Bicol region and Eastern Visayas. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy skies with rainshowers

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/07/17/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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Second FrontPage

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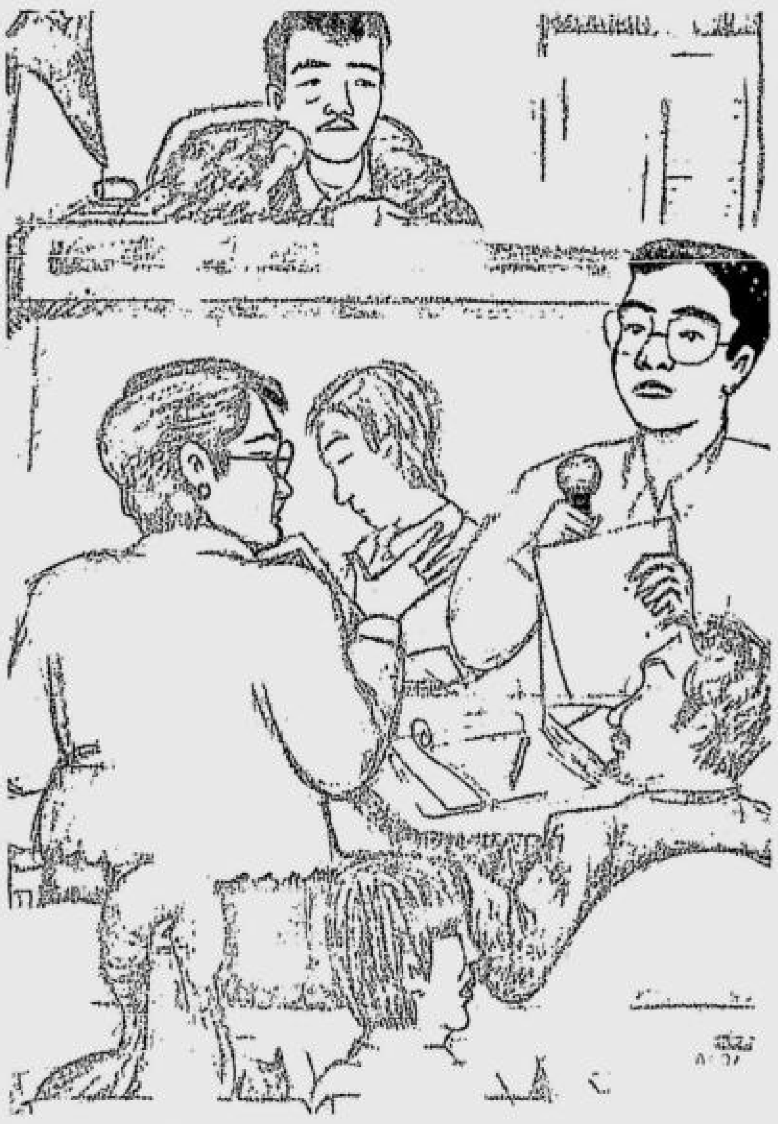
Van driver no-show at rape trial



TIMOTEO SORIANO JR.'S lawyer, Jose Raulito Paras, and Senior State Prosecutor Emilie Fe de los Santos tangle in open court before Judge Benjamin Pozon on Monday.

Witness invokes right vs self-incrimination

By Tarra V. Quismundo and Volt Contreras

A KEY WITNESS IN THE RAPE trial of four US Marines refused to take the stand yesterday.

Timoteo Soriano Jr., the driver and only other Filipino inside the van when "Nicole" was allegedly raped by an American Marine, was a no-show at the Makati Regional Trial Court yesterday.

He was scheduled to testify as a prosecution witness against four US soldiers accused of conspiring to rape the complainant inside a Starex van on Nov. 1, 2005 at the Subic Bay Freeport.

'Inconsistent position'

Soriano's lawyer, Jose Raulito Paras, appeared on his behalf and told Judge Benjamin Pozon that his client was "invoking his right against self-incrimination," as he currently faced two cases filed by Nicole seeking his inclusion as an accused in the rape case.

"We believe the prosecution is taking an extremely inconsistent position in compelling Mr. Soriano to testify for the prosecution, while the same prosecution wants him to be indicted for the same case," Paras said in open court.

Soriano became controversial after recanting his first affidavit narrating what he knew about the alleged rape. In his second affidavit, the driver denied ever saying that he had witnessed a gang rape, and alleged that he was coerced to sign a perjured statement for fear of being included in the case.

"It is oppressive and unreasonable to make Mr. Soriano testify for the prosecution when the prosecution, figuratively, is pointing a gun to his head," Paras said.

'Not accused yet'

Senior State Prosecutor Emilie Fe delos Santos said Soriano could not invoke the constitutional right against self-incrimination as "he is not an accused yet."

Pozon later ruled in favor of Paras' verbal motion to quash the subpoena issued for his client to testify, citing the pending cases against the driver.

As the prosecution had no other witness ready, proceedings were adjourned at 1:45 p.m., less than an hour into the hearing scheduled until 5 p.m.

"The court is constrained to grant [Paras'] motion considering the serious objection of Soriano... [and the] pendency of the [cases]. Even if we call Soriano as an ordinary witness on a conditional basis, he may invoke his right against self-incrimination at an opportune time [during his testimony]," Pozon ruled in open court.

The judge gave the prosecution until today to file a motion for another issuance of a subpoena and set Soriano's testimony for Monday (July 24), while Paras was given two days to answer upon receipt of the motion.

Four American servicemen are charged as principals in the rape case: Staff Sgt. Chad Carpentier, Lance Cpls. Keith Silkwood, Dominic Duplantis and Daniel Smith, the 21-year-old Marine whom the complainant identified in court as the one who forced himself on her.

Witness willing but...

In an interview after the proceedings, Paras told the INQUIRER that Soriano was willing to testify and tell the court the truth about the incident.

"It is not that he does not want to testify. We are only protecting his right against self-incrimination which is available to him if the cases against him are resolved," the lawyer said.

With Nicole unable to recall much of what happened to her at the van except for Smith lying on top of her, kissing her, and touching her breasts, Soriano could have given the court more details of what happened inside the vehicle.

'Go, Smith, Go!'

His first sworn statement to investigators, after all, was the source of the infamous quote "Go, Smith, Go!"—referring to the cheering Soriano allegedly heard from the other accused Americans, an account prosecutors consider as a proof of conspiracy.

But private prosecutor Evalyn Ursua wouldn't concede that Soriano's absence dealt a serious blow to the prosecution.

While agreeing that Soriano could have added to Nicole's narrative "it's not as if the entire case would fall without him," Ursua told the INQUIRER after the hearing.

Ursua herself also missed yesterday's hearing. Reached on the phone, the lawyer said she was unable to attend because she met with another upcoming witness for the prosecution, a toxicologist from the Philippine General Hospital. *With a report from AFP*

CADAPAN

EMPENO

Where are our daughters? Parents run to SC for help

By Armand N. Nocum

THE PARENTS OF TWO MISSING FEMALE students of the University of the Philippines have asked the Supreme Court to compel the military to release their daughters and a farmer believed to have been abducted by military men last June 26.

In a six-page petition, parents Asher and Erlinda Cadapan and Concepcion Empeno blamed the military for the abduction of their daughters, Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeno.

The petitioners claimed that Gen. Jovito Palparan, commanding general of the 7th Infantry Division based at Fort Magsaysay, Laur, Nueva Ecija, had hinted about their daughters' arrests in a media interview on ANC on July 4.

According to the petitioners, Palparan had said in the interview that "the girls were not students anymore but they might be students 10 years before, implying he has knowledge about the whereabouts of the victims."

The parents said they had reason to believe that their daughters were being held either at the headquarters of the 56th Infantry Battalion of the Task Force Bulacan, at Iba, Hagonoy or at Fort Magsaysay, Laur, Nueva Ecija.

"We are filing this petition as a last recourse so that the high court compels the military to surface (sic) our children and whatever happens to them, we know there is no one else to blame but the military," the petitioners said.

Aside from Palparan, others included in the petition are: Major. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, commanding officer of Northern Luzon Command; Lt. Col. Rogelio Boac, commanding officer of Task Force Bulacan, a certain Lt. Samson and Arnel Enriquez, as those who may be responsible for restraining the two students.

The parents claimed that their daughters Sherlyn and Karen, who were staying in the house of a certain Raquel Halili, at Barangay San Miguel Hagonoy, Bulacan, were forcibly taken by members of the Philippine Army and brought to the headquarters of the 56th Infantry Battalion, Iba, Hagonoy.

The soldiers also took with them a farmer identified as Manuel Merino after he tried to assist the students.

Residents who witnessed the incident said the girls and Merino were made to board a private stainless jeep with Plate No. 597.

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Kin of abducted businessman put up ₱5-M reward

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

BATANGAS CITY—THE FAMILY and friends of a wealthy businessman who was abducted here last month by armed men who introduced themselves as agents of the National Bureau of Investigation yesterday put up a P5-million reward to speed up the resolution of the case.

In a news conference, Ruby Macatangay said they would give the money to anybody who could produce her husband Precioso alive.

"*Pwede na nilang kunin ang lahat sa akin. Ibalik lang nila nang buhay ang asawa ko* (They can take everything from me, just give back my husband alive)," the victim's wife said in between sobs.

Joined by her relatives, Macatangay likewise appealed to newly appointed chief of the Philippine National Police, Director General Oscar Calderon, to help them find her husband.

Precioso, whose family owns a chain of hotels in the city, was taken by heavily armed men outside a cockpit coliseum on the wee hours of June 18.

His car was found abandoned in a subdivision in San Jose del Monte City in Bulacan nine hours later.

Records of his credit card showed that the victim made several transactions in a gasoline station and a drug store in Quezon City a few hours after the abduction. But police said the signature of the victim was forged by the kidnappers.

During the hastily called press briefing, an apologetic Macatangay expressed regrets after she and her family shunned earlier media requests for interview.

She said she was also sorry for not cooperating with the police authorities regarding the case.

"Sorry if I spurned media interviews because I was very afraid. I am not used to face this kind of situation. I ask for your understanding," she said in Filipino.

She disclosed that her husband was a close friend of retired PNP chief Gen. Arturo Lomibao. In fact, she and the former PNP chief talked over the phone shortly after her husband was reported to have been abducted, she said. She, however, declined to give the details of their conversation.

Macatangay said they could not think of anyone who had any grudge against her husband, except his siblings.

"But even if he had problems with his siblings, those were not enough reasons (for his abduction)," said lawyer Joselito Dimayacyac, the family's counsel and close friend of the victim's.

Dimayacyac said that except for being a cockfighting aficionado, the victim was never involved in any other illegal activities.

He vehemently denied reports that his client was involved in drug trafficking.

He said family members were dismayed by the slow police investigation.

Except for a telephone call to the family a day after the abduction, the kidnappers never contacted them, Dimayacyac said.

"But the call seemed to be not from the suspects. It seemed to be (a prank call). So far, there has been no ransom demanded," he told reporters.

The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Batangas admitted that it was still clueless on the possible motive for the abduction.

SPO1 Danilo Balmes, CIDG investigator, said police were having a hard time handling the case.

He said that aside from the three witnesses who saw the incident, they had no other evidences that would help them identify the abductors.

He also lamented the decision of the family not to cooperate with them, and this had adversely affected their investigation.

For possible information on the whereabouts of Precioso Macatangay, the CIDG Batangas may be reached at (043) 3002162 or 09175053381.

Mayon rumbling continues; villagers recall 1993 blast

From page A1

volcano's summit.

They died because of serious burns, he said.

79 dead

The eruption killed a total of 79 villagers, mostly farmers who were planting coconuts, vegetables and root crops at the foot of the volcano when it exploded.

"The main livelihood of the people here is farming. The farmers cultivate soil at the foot of the Mayon because the soil there is very fertile. It lessens their cost of production since they no longer need so much artificial fertilizer," said Antonio Alcera, head of Barangay Mabinit, one of the danger areas at the foot of Mayon.

Based on Office of Civil Defense reports, as of March, there were 4,343 farmers living immediately outside the 6-km-radius permanent danger zone (PDZ) but continued to farm within the zone.

Said Alcera: "The farmers here are worried that because of the ongoing eruption, their crops will be destroyed. In 1993, the plantations were devastated by the series of ash falls, robbing the farmers of their source of living."

Remembered lessons

Though women in the village are into weaving, farming remains the main source of income for the 400 households in Barangay Matanag.

In Bonga, Esquivel said the 1993 eruption taught villagers some important lessons which they have not forgotten.

"On their own initiative, the farmers are now careful not to enter the high-risk areas, planting in safer fields far from where the 1993 tragedy happened," Esquivel said.

Nature's signs

Villagers cling to their traditional beliefs about the signs of an imminent eruption.

"One of the common signs here is when the wells in the village dry up. It is also usually hot, even if it's windy," Azul said.

Old folks believe a change in the behavior of animals in the volcano's forest also portends that an eruption is coming, according to Esquivel.

Birds, snakes and other wild animals have been observed to leave the volcano's slopes when an eruption is near. They are believed to be able to feel the volcano's restiveness, which makes them feel uneasy and prompts them to travel downslope.

Preparedness

The village chieftains of Bonga and Matanag said they were aware of the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council's evacuation scheme.

"I have advised the people to prepare the basic things they have to bring just in case the alert level is raised to four. We already know our designated evacuation center. We just have to be watchful all the time," Alcera said.

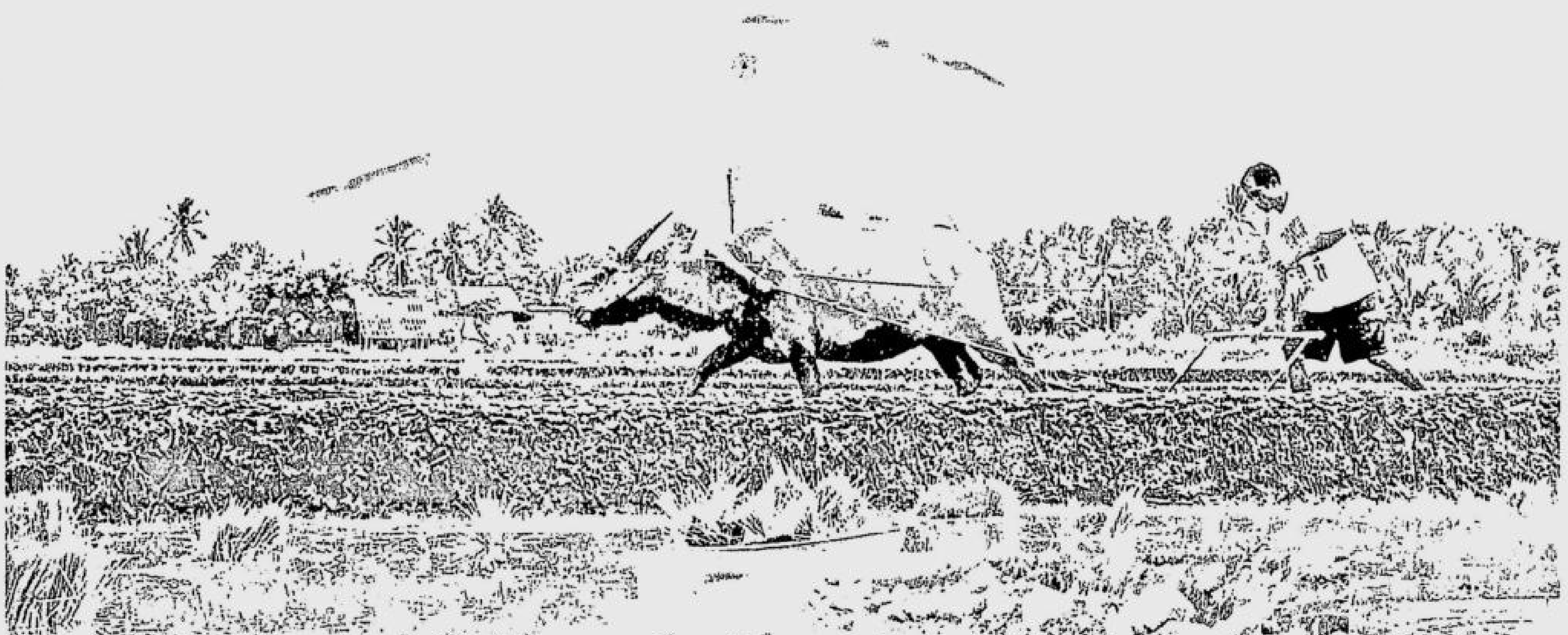
Alcera said that if the situation worsened, nobody would want to be left in the village even if it meant giving up their livelihood.

"Who would want the 1993 tragedy to happen again?" Azul said.

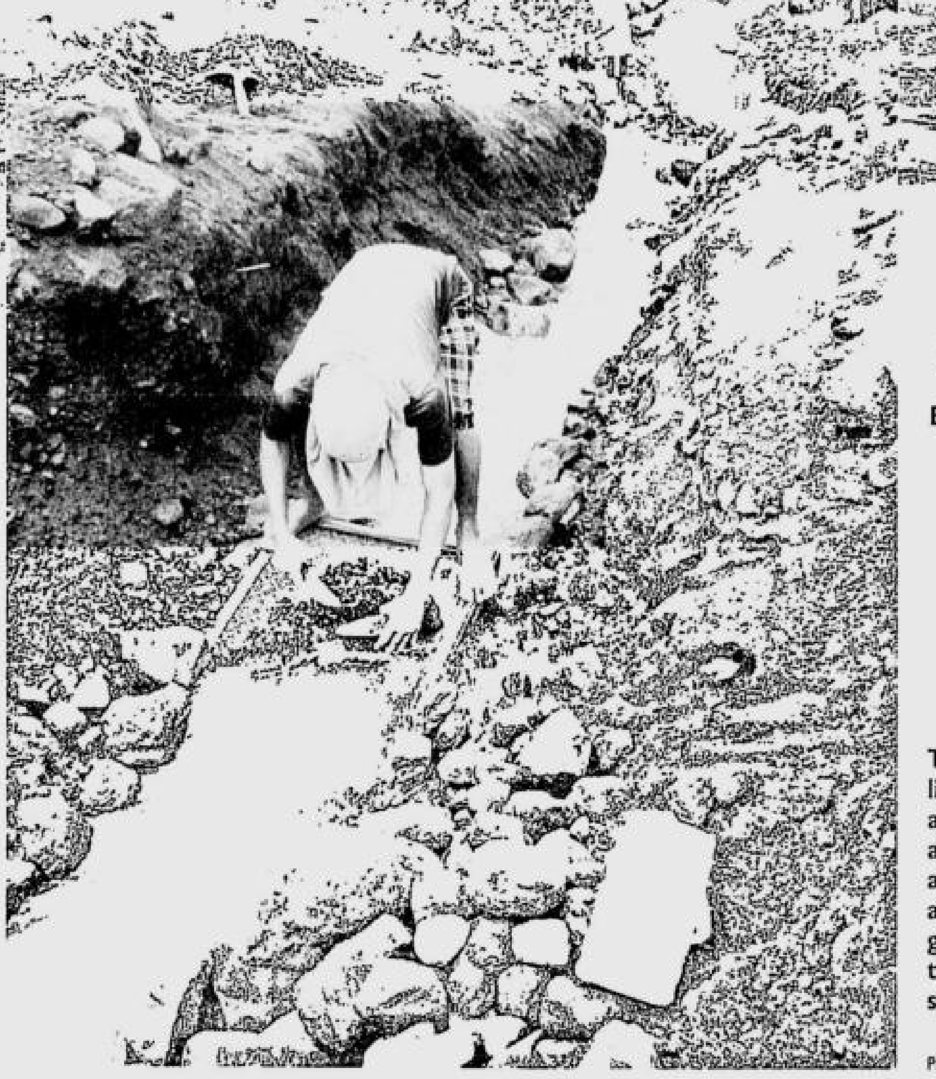
The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said it had recorded 314 tremors in the last 24 hours up to 6 a.m. yesterday, significantly higher than the 111 tremors monitored Sunday. *(See related story in Across the Nation, Page A14.)*

"Residents in areas facing the Bonga gully in the southeast portion of the volcano and within 7 kilometers of the crater are advised to be prepared for evacuation," Phivolcs said in a bulletin issued yesterday.

It advised residents near the Bonga gully to be vigilant against hazardous explosions that could cause lava flows and small rock avalanches. *With a report from Blanche S. Rivera*



EDISON Antiquera, 47, of Barangay Bigaa in Legazpi City, continues his farm work, unmindful of Mount Mayon's possible eruption.
EDWIN BACASMAS



THIS MAN is likewise indifferent about the volcano's abnormal behavior as he collects gravel at its foot in Bonga gully in Legazpi City to earn money to support his family.
NIÑO JESUS Y. ORBETA/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Impeach proponents hoping for miracle

From page A1

concede the impeachment rules need to be amended.

The two opposition stalwarts told reporters that when the 13th Congress opens its third regular session, they would seek an amendment of impeachment rules so that they could at least present evidence against Ms Arroyo even at the committee level.

They acknowledge the inevitable, however, that just like last year, Ms Arroyo's dominant allies will throw out the new impeachment complaints that opponents of the President had filed last month.

At a press conference, the citizens' groups leading the fresh efforts to unseat Ms Arroyo declared that only divine intervention could dislodge her from power due to her allies' numerical superiority in the House.

'We don't have numbers'

"We'll pursue this even if we don't have the numbers, miracles may happen," said former Transportation Undersecretary Josefina Lichauco.

Lichauco said the signatories to the four complaints so far filed with the House secretary general were "aware that the numbers are against us."

At least 78 votes are needed in the House of Representatives for an impeachment case against the President to move to trial in the Senate.

Leah Navarro, a convenor of the Black and White Movement, said the impeachment process should not be relegated to a numbers' game because the Filipinos were only after the truth.

All day yesterday, private citizens and anti-Arroyo groups trooped to Congress to sign a fifth complaint to be filed when Congress reopens on Monday.

The latest batch included the Citizens' Battle Against Corruption and Migrante.

'Face-saving mode'

The House majority claimed that the opposition was now in "face-saving mode" after losing the support of 10 proimpeachment congressmen and failing to get the endorsement of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

In a joint statement, Representatives Mauricio Domogan of Baguio City and Salacnib Baterina of Ilocos Sur said only those who stood to gain through media mileage and brownie point would push for impeachment although it had "no chance at all to pass in the House."

Domogan said 10 lawmakers had already bolted the impeachment bloc but he did not identify them.

House insiders say they could be part of the "conscience bloc" headed by Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers, Edmund Reyes and Robert Jaworski Jr., a group of administration lawmakers that endorsed the impeachment process in 2005.

"This confirms our own information, and have further rendered hopeless the impeachment bid. Impeachment has now become a dead cause," said Domogan.

"Their antics to project themselves as heroic or righteous won't work because we in the majority know that what they are pursuing are baseless and recycled impeachment complaints," said Baterina.

Ferry restores equality of sexes on isle—a bit

From page A1

The women, after all, held a grip on economic power. They were the ones who earned the family living, diving into the sea for abalone and lucrative shellfish, which they sold on the main island of Cheju.

The men did not dive, fished little because of the rough seas, and could not farm because the waves crashing against the bluffs sprayed seawater on the flat, sea cucumber-shaped islet.

The men stayed home and took care of the children, or fell into bouts of gambling, drinking and idleness.

But change came 14 years ago when a regular ferry linked Marado to Cheju for the first time, bringing with it tourists, settlers, Chinese restaurants and jobs for the formerly jobless men.

As the population grew, from 63 to more than 100, so, too, did the confidence of the men of Marado.

"They really are more confident now," said Kim Choon-geum, 51, who serves as the president of the Marado Sea Women's Association.

"Now that my husband is making money, I feel I should be deferential to him, a little bit," she said, adding with a smile that she still earned more than he did.

"Men are busy now doing lots of things in tourism," said Kim Ock-min, a 38-year-old man who manages one of Marado's two Chinese restaurants. "Before, they had their little boats but really didn't do much."

The new balance has brought stability to at least one couple.

"We'd fight like crazy before," said Kim Choon-geum.

Chi Han-bong, her husband, said: "I think we've become more intimate."

"Simply put," he added, as tourists stepped into his cart, "when the women alone were working and seeing us stay at home, being idle, they used to get angry. Before, the men had nothing to do but get drunk and gamble. Now that both of us are working, they see less of that idleness and don't get angry anymore." *New York Times News Service*

Correction

IN THE JULY 16 ISSUE, an Across the Nation story on Page A14—"Raps filed vs squatting syndicate"—misspelled the name of the chief state prosecutor. The correct spelling of the chief state prosecutor's name is Jovencito Zuño—not Juvenio Zunio.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

PACQUIAO FEVER

DepEd wants boxing taught in public schools

By Alcuin Papa

THE POPULARITY OF BOXING AS A SPORT and the country's high regard for boxer Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao have spurred the Department of Education (DepEd) to consider including the "sweet science" in physical education classes for all public schools around the country.

DepEd officer-in-charge Fe Hidalgo said the technical committee had yet to discuss the inclusion of boxing in PE since "they are still focused on the recent Palarong Pambansa scam."

She said boxing would most probably be adopted in the high school level since "we want kids in the elementary [level] to focus on their academics."

Hidalgo herself recognized that boxing could be a way out of poverty for some kids but "we would still want the children to learn how to read and write. We also want them to discover their other capabilities and so they could develop self-esteem," she said.

With more kids training in boxing, there is a greater possibility of discovering another boxing champion like Pacquiao. Sports is also a better alternative to drugs and crime.

Meanwhile, the committee investigating the Palarong Pambansa controversy is taking a second look at the documents submitted by those involved in the mess.

During the last Palarong Pambansa, parents of players in the National Capital Region team complained that some of the athletes in the Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) and Eastern Visayas teams were overage.

The parents had sent Hidalgo a letter of complaint about the alleged cheating.

Later, the mother of one of the Calabarzon baseball players reportedly admitted on national TV that her son was already 19 years old, six years over the age limit in the elementary division.

The committee is set to examine the documents submitted by the players, including their birth certificates, to determine their real age. Members of the team will also interview students, parents, and all those involved in the alleged cheating as part of its data gathering.

Hidalgo said Education undersecretaries Franklin Sunga and Antonio Inocentes had been tasked to head the investigating committee composed of other lawyers in the department.

Gov't to help 3 injured seamen

LABOR SECRETARY ARTURO BRION YESTERDAY said the government would provide full assistance to three Filipino seafarers injured in a fire that swept a ship unloading liquefied petroleum gas in Aqaba, Jordan last week.

Brion, citing a report of Labor Attache Amman Nur-Al Din Tamano, said the injured seafarers, who were treated at the Al-Hayah Military Hospital, have been pronounced out of danger. Brion made the announcement in Libya where he is traveling with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The injured seamen, all crew of the vessel "Benegas," were identified as Prescino Cavite, 32, from Leyte; Cyrus Girayal, 31, from Davao; and Andres Cabatuan, 37, from Nueva Ecija. They sustained burns in their faces.

The accident happened some 100 kms away from Jordan's southern port of Aqaba in the Red Sea. The seamen were brought to Al-Hayah Military Hospital in Jordan.

In Manila, Labor undersecretary Danilo Cruz corrected earlier media reports saying 13 Filipino seafarers were injured in the incident, four of them seriously.

There were 13 Filipinos reportedly manning the ship along with some other nationalities, and the good news is that 10 of the 13 Filipino escaped unhurt, Cruz said.

Cruz assured their families that the Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Jordan would act to ensure their well-being.

The ship's local agent, Cruz said, has been identified as the Marimar Shipping Agency Corp. in Makati City.

Based on OWWA rules, documented overseas Filipino workers who are OWWA members are covered with accident insurance of up to P200,000, disability assistance, and other welfare benefits.

Jerome Aning

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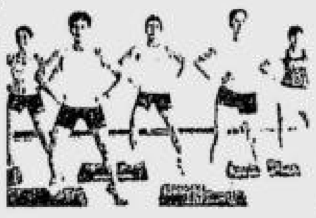

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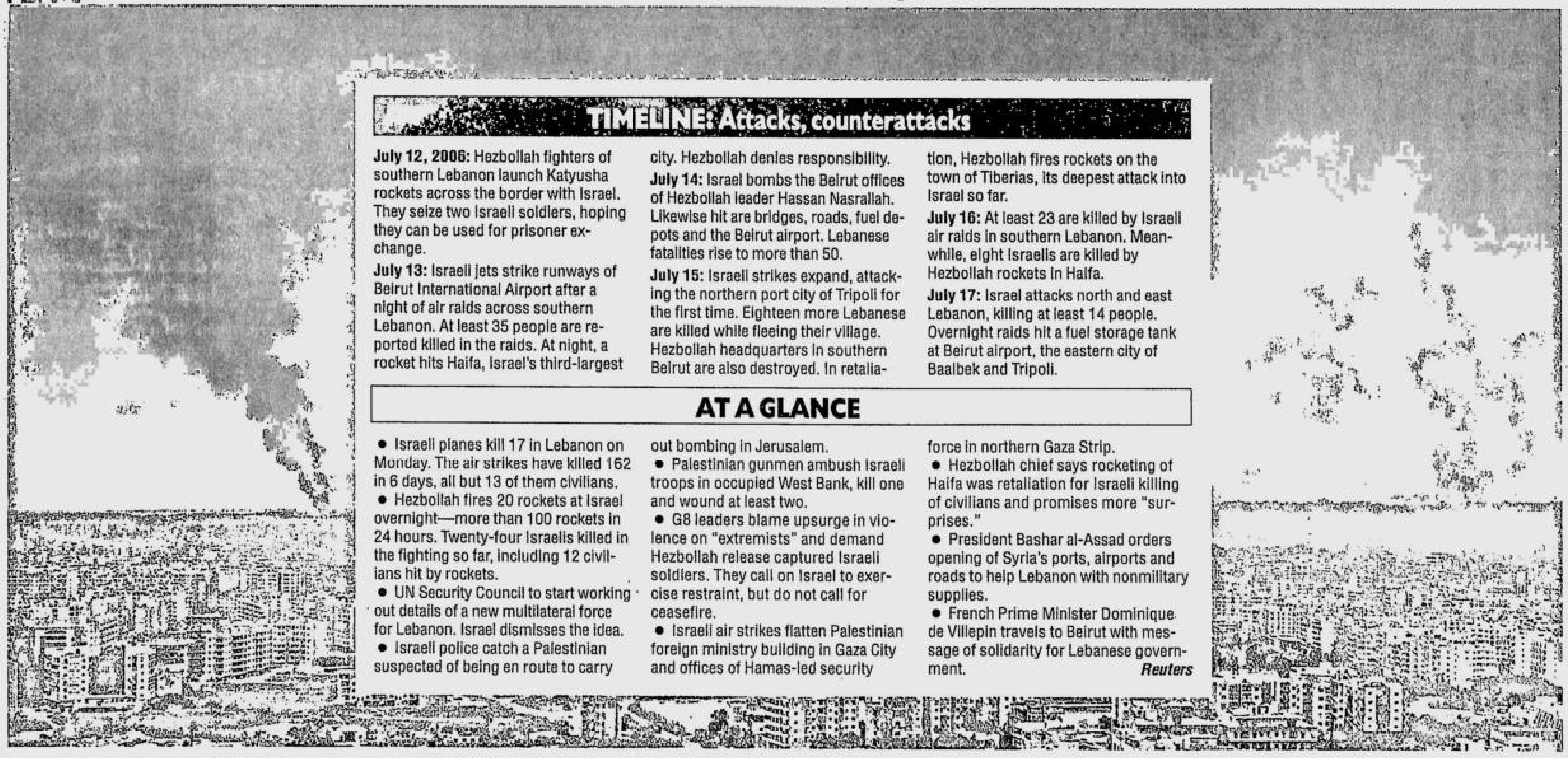

TIMELINE: Attacks, counterattacks

July 12, 2006: Hezbollah fighters of southern Lebanon launch Katyusha rockets across the border with Israel. They seize two Israeli soldiers, hoping they can be used for prisoner exchange.

July 13: Israeli jets strike runways of Beirut International Airport after a night of air raids across southern Lebanon. At least 35 people are reported killed in the raids. At night, a rocket hits Haifa, Israel's third-largest city. Hezbollah denies responsibility.

July 14: Israel bombs the Beirut offices of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah. Likewise hit are bridges, roads, fuel depots and the Beirut airport. Lebanese fatalities rise to more than 50.

July 15: Israeli strikes expand, attacking the northern port city of Tripoli for the first time. Eighteen more Lebanese are killed while fleeing their village. Hezbollah headquarters in southern Beirut are also destroyed. In retaliation, Hezbollah fires rockets on the town of Tiberias, its deepest attack into Israel so far.

July 16: At least 23 are killed by Israeli air raids in southern Lebanon. Meanwhile, eight Israelis are killed by Hezbollah rockets in Haifa.

July 17: Israel attacks north and east Lebanon, killing at least 14 people. Overnight raids hit a fuel storage tank at Beirut airport, the eastern city of Baalbek and Tripoli.

AT A GLANCE

- Israeli planes kill 17 in Lebanon on Monday. The air strikes have killed 162 in 6 days, all but 13 of them civilians.
- Hezbollah fires 20 rockets at Israel overnight—more than 100 rockets in 24 hours. Twenty-four Israelis killed in the fighting so far, including 12 civilians hit by rockets.
- UN Security Council to start working out details of a new multilateral force for Lebanon. Israel dismisses the idea.
- Israeli police catch a Palestinian suspected of being en route to carry out bombing in Jerusalem.
- Palestinian gunmen ambush Israeli troops in occupied West Bank, kill one and wound at least two.
- G8 leaders blame upsurge in violence on "extremists" and demand Hezbollah release captured Israeli soldiers. They call on Israel to exercise restraint, but do not call for ceasefire.
- Israeli air strikes flatten Palestinian foreign ministry building in Gaza City and offices of Hamas-led security force in northern Gaza Strip.
- Hezbollah chief says rocketing of Haifa was retaliation for Israeli killing of civilians and promises more "surprises."
- President Bashar al-Assad orders opening of Syria's ports, airports and roads to help Lebanon with nonmilitary supplies.
- French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin travels to Beirut with message of solidarity for Lebanese government.

Reuters

BLACK smoke rises after fresh Israeli attacks on the Hezbollah stronghold in the southern suburbs of Beirut.

AP

OFWs in Beirut flee to churches

From page A1

Lebanon at this time, but the contingency measures for an evacuation are already in place," Foreign Undersecretary Esteban Conejos Jr. said.

He added: "In crisis like this, we first have to move them out of harm's way ... Once we (have) them in a safe place, then we have time to think and prepare for evacuation."

The decision to evacuate will depend on the assessment of the Middle East Preparedness Team headed by special envoy Roy Cimatu, who said he hoped to leave soonest for Lebanon.

"The moment it is already out of control ... we can already consider moving out," Cimatu said.

Philippine authorities have identified two possible evacuation routes for the Filipinos. One is from Beirut to Syria, which could take several hours by land. The other is from Beirut to Cyprus, a nearly six-hour trip by sea.

Stay with employers

Conejos said the Israeli and Lebanese governments had been informed of the Filipinos' evacuation plans, including possible routes to allow for their safe passage.

Conejos said that as of now, it was best for the OFWs to stay with their employers.

Most of the 34,000 Filipino workers in Lebanon are in Beirut, the capital. Of that number, 25,000 work as domestic workers, while the rest are employed in hotels or at UN international missions. Others are married to Lebanese nationals.

"Obviously, we can't move them all at the same time. We need to have an orderly movement of 30,000 people," Conejos said.

Eleven Filipinos working with the United Nations at the Israeli-Lebanon border "are now staying in bunkers," Cimatu said.

Churches as havens

As of last night, a total of 111 Filipinos were staying at the Church of the Miraculous Medal in Achrafieh, 8 km from the Philippine Embassy in Beirut.

The St. Joseph Church and another Catholic church are also relocation sites for the Filipinos.

Some embassy personnel, particularly female staff members and their dependents, have been temporarily accommodated either in East Beirut or in Jounieh on the Christian side, 21 km north of Beirut.

Cimatu said the relocation sites would be marked with easily identifiable Philippine flags as a signal to the attacking Israel military that these were neutral grounds.

Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Gilberto Asuque said that Filipinos in Haifa, Israel, had also been asked to leave after Hezbollah militants fired rockets into the northern Israeli city.

'Packed like sardines'

There are also some 30,000 Filipinos in Israel, most of them in the capital Tel Aviv and employed mostly as caregivers, nurses, or members of household staff, Asuque said.

A Filipino priest at one church used as relocation site in Lebanon told radio dzXL in Manila that evacuees there were "packed like sardines."

The priest, who identified himself only as Father Jesse, said most of the workers, apparently domestic helpers, had been abandoned when their employers left Lebanon.

Estrelita Hizon, president of the recruiters' group Philippine Association of Mediterranean Agencies Deploying Labours Inc. (Pamadel), portrayed a seemingly different situation, saying the OFWs in Lebanon were safe but that "there are a few who said that they would want to leave if the situation worsens."

Not that bad?

"I'm told the situation there is not that bad," said Hizon, a member of the board of trustees of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

She said 36 OFWs facing immigration-related charges and 75 others who had run away from their employers were being readied for evacuation by Philippine Embassy officials.

"If you watch the international news channels, you'll be scared. But there, they said it's not that scary. It's not an invasion that's taking place, but a rescue of kidnap victims," Hizon said, referring to the abduction by Hezbollah guerrillas of Israeli soldiers, which sparked the current conflict.

Hizon said the safety of the OFWs was being taken care of by their employers.

Concentrated in Beirut

According to Hizon, 99 percent of the documented OFWs in Lebanon live in Beirut. The Filipinos work in the households of Maronite Christians living in the more affluent northern districts of the city.

The areas targeted by Israeli planes were located in the southern suburbs, which are populated by Arabs, she said.

Hizon said as far as she knew, there were no Filipino workers in the southern part of the country that had been penetrated by Israeli troops. She also has no knowledge if there are OFWs in other Lebanese cities, such as Tyre, Sidon and Tripoli.

In Malacañang, Presidential Chief of staff Michael Defensor said a meeting would be held today among officials in the Palace, DFA and the Owwa before the arrival of President Macapagal-Arroyo from a state visit to Libya.

"We don't know the exact plan but definitely there is a program for evacuation of families in Lebanon or if ever, a temporary settlement area for them to be placed as possible sites for their permanent evacuation," Defensor said.

Wasting no time

Other governments, including those of the United States, France and Britain wasted no time in evacuating their nationals as the violence intensified.

Foreigners have fled in thousands of cars to neighboring Syria since Thursday.

A US Marine helicopter with 21 passengers—nonessential embassy staff and Americans with compelling medical needs—left Lebanon for Cyprus on Sunday.

The US state department estimates about 25,000 US citizens, including people with dual citizenship, live in Lebanon, although holiday visits could mean many more are there.

France hired a cruise ship, which should arrive on Monday and can carry 1,000 to 2,000 passengers, to help evacuate its citizens and other Europeans to Cyprus. It also hired another ferry with Norway which can take up to 650 people.

Overland routes

So far, most foreigners have been forced to flee overland to take flights from Syria after Israeli forces bombed the Beirut airport and its ships began patrolling Lebanon's Mediterranean coast.

Sotos Zakhaeos, the director general of France's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said hiring the passenger ships was "a French initiative for the transportation of all European citizens."

Russia sent an airliner to Jordan on Monday to begin evacuating its citizens. Earlier, the Emergency Situations Ministry said a plane would evacuate 74 citizens of Russia and other ex-Soviet nations, mostly women and children, from Lebanon and the Palestinian territories.

Italy has moved a warship into waters near Beirut to assist with a second wave of evacuations after an Italian convoy drove 460 people, mostly Italians, to Syria at the weekend.

British warships

Britain said a rapid deployment team had arrived in Beirut to assist British nationals and that naval assets were in the regions. It was also sending two Royal Navy ships for a possible evacuation of some of the 3,500 to 4,000 British families and 10,000 dual nationals registered in Lebanon.

Canada was also preparing to evacuate some of its citizens, after seven Canadians were killed in Lebanon.

Around 16,000 Canadians have registered with their embassy but officials said the real figure could be as high as 40,000. *(See related story in The World, Page A19.)*

Canada—working with Britain and France—was securing commercial vessels and positioning them off the coast of Lebanon to prepare for an evacuation.

Germany said it had helped around 200 of the roughly 1,100 Germans to leave over the weekend and more than 130 Swiss were evacuated on Saturday and Sunday by bus to Damascus.

Other European and Arab countries sent military or chartered civilian aircraft to Syria to fly people home.

Belgium said some of the 1,200 Belgians in Lebanon with dual nationality and 540 nonresident Belgians would be evacuated on the French ships.

Greece said an Olympic Airlines flight from Damascus had brought Greeks and others to Athens and a convoy of 136 people, including Greeks, Cypriots and other Europeans, had left Lebanon for Syria where another flight awaited them.

Officials across the Asia-Pacific region were working to find an evacuation routes for their trapped citizens.

Other Asians moving

Australia was in talks with Israel to determine the safest option out of Lebanon, while Thailand, New Zealand and Japan were also working to help their citizens flee.

Indonesia evacuated 45 citizens on Sunday, and another 35 were scheduled to be evacuated soon.

Up to 5,000 Australian travelers have registered with the Australian Embassy in Lebanon, and about 25,000 dual Australian-Lebanese citizens are believed to be living there, Australian media reported.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said he hoped that "two or three busloads" of Australian citizens would leave Lebanon for neighboring Syria on Monday.

"If that is successful, and the buses aren't held up, then we will be able to repeat the operation," Downer said.

"In a war, there are high risks—there are risks trying to get out of the country, there are risks staying in the country," he said. "There isn't a risk-free environment that we can create; we will just do our best."

Thailand has also started evacuating its nationals in Lebanon and Israel. Twenty-five of the 100 Thais working in Lebanon moved by land from Beirut to Damascus.

Plans are also under way to evacuate some 25,000 Thai farm workers in Israel in case of a counterattack from Lebanon.

With reports Christine O. Avendaño, AFP, Reuters, AP

Israeli fighter planes set Lebanon ablaze

From page A1

Israel said its planes and artillery struck 60 targets inside Lebanon overnight. The Israeli military sought to punish Lebanon for the barrage of 20 rockets on Haifa. Israel's second largest city had not been hit before the current round of fighting broke out on Wednesday after Hezbollah guerrillas seized two Israeli soldiers and brought them back to Lebanon.

An escalation of the conflict has sent world crude prices soaring. *(See story in Business, Page B1).*

Light, sweet crude for August delivery on Monday gained 55 cents to $77.58 a barrel in Asian electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract reached an intraday record of $78.40 a barrel on Friday before settling at an all-time closing high of $77.03.

Peacekeeping force

"Oil prices are higher because the conflict between Israel and Lebanon worsened over the weekend, and though that obviously doesn't have any direct impact on physical oil supply, people are having trouble seeing where this all ends," said Tobin Gorey, a commodity strategist with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia in Sydney.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan on Monday called for the deployment of international forces to stop the bombardment of Israel and to persuade the Jewish state to stop attacks on Hezbollah. *(See story in The World, Page A19).*

Speaking on the margin of the Group of Eight summit in St. Petersburg, Blair said the fighting would not stop until the conditions for a ceasefire were created. "The only way is if we have a deployment of international forces that can stop bombardment coming into Israel," he said.

The meeting of the world's most industrialized nations, which had struggled to reach a consensus on the escalating warfare between Israel and Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon, have expressed concern on the "rising civilian casualties" and urged both sides to stop the violence.

The European Union said it was considering the deployment of a peacekeeping force in Lebanon, while Annan appealed to Israel to spare civilian lives and infrastructure.

Overnight attacks

Israel said it was too soon to talk of sending a peacekeeping force.

Israeli planes and artillery guns killed 17 people and wounded at least 53 others in the overnight attacks, according to Lebanese security officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Israeli officials accused Syria and Iran of providing Lebanese guerrillas with sophisticated weapons, saying the missiles that hit Haifa had greater range and heavier warheads than those Hezbollah had fired before.

In their raids on Beirut on Monday, Israeli planes killed two people in the harbor and started a large fire that was later extinguished. A French ship was due to arrive in the port later Monday to evacuate Europeans.

The Israeli jets also set fire to a gas storage tank in the northern neighborhood of Dawra, and another fuel storage tank at Beirut airport, sending plumes of smoke billowing into the sky. The airport has been closed since Thursday when Israeli jets blasted its runways.

Israeli missiles also blasted southern Beirut, causing three explosions that shook the city. The targets were not immediately clear, but Hezbollah has a host of offices, clinics, schools, social clubs and the homes of its leaders in the southern suburbs.

Elsewhere in Lebanon, Israeli planes again hit the Beirut to Damascus highway, which has been targeted as part of a strategy of severing Lebanon's links to the outside world. Monday's attacks struck the highway in the eastern Bekaa Valley and killed two people.

Lebanese soldiers

In another attack, eight Lebanese soldiers who were killed when Israeli aircraft attacked a small fishing port at Abdeh in northern Lebanon near a highway leading to Syria. Witnesses and security officials said 12 Lebanese soldiers were wounded in the attack.

An Israeli Army spokesperson said an investigation was being conducted because, "in principle, the Israeli military does not target Lebanese soldiers."

Hezbollah is not known to operate in northern Israel, but the Israeli Army said it had targeted radar stations there because they had been used by Hezbollah to hit a warship on Friday. Israel all but accused the Lebanese military of lending its support to Hezbollah.

Full strength

"The attacks ... are against radar stations used, among other things, in the attack on the Israeli missile boat, by Hezbollah in cooperation with the Lebanese military," the Israeli Army spokesperson told The Associated Press.

Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah on Sunday said that despite Israel's attacks, the guerrillas were "in their full strength and power" and that their "missile stockpiles are still full."

"When the Zionists behave like there are no rules and no red lines and no limits to the confrontation, it is our right to behave in the same way," Nasrallah said in a televised address, looking tired. He said Hezbollah had hit Haifa because of Israel's strikes on Lebanese civilians.

The Israeli military warned residents of south Lebanon to flee, promising heavy retaliation after the Haifa assault.

In one air strike on southern Lebanon early Monday, an Israeli missile missed its apparent target—a Hezbollah site—and hit a private house, killing two people, according to security officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak to the media.

For the Lebanese, the current fighting means a return to the dark days of its 1975-90 civil war, when neighboring countries used their Lebanese proxies to settle their differences with violence—on Lebanon's soil.

AP

Sandigan thumbs down Erap request

By Nelson F. Flores

THE SANDIGANBAYAN SPECIAL Division yesterday turned down former President Joseph Estrada's request for a one-day leave from detention to file a P30-million libel suit against Joelle Pelaez, her mother, Blanquita, and the publisher, editor in chief and a reporter of Manila Standard Today.

Instead, the antigraft court heeded the recommendation of Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio and ruled that government prosecutors would just go to Estrada's detention center in Tanay, Rizal to have him swear to the authenticity of the libel complaint.

Villa-Ignacio is volunteering to send one of his prosecutors to assist Estrada, argued that an Estrada trip to Pasig City for the filing of the complaint would entail tremendous expense for the government.

He further said that police officers who would be assigned to secure Estrada for the trip could be better utilized for other duties, especially at a time when the Philippine National Police was beefing up security measures for the State of the Nation Address of the President.

"The security detail needed to secure the former president when he goes out to file his suit could be used for other purposes. There are at least nine agencies securing him whenever he goes out of Tanay. The PNP needs its policemen for other security concerns," Villa-Ignacio said.

Lawyer Jose Flaminiano, one of Estrada's counsels, objected to Villa-Ignacio's proposal, saying it was the right of the complainant to subscribe personally to the affidavit he was filing. He added that the former president did not want to convey the impression that he was being accorded special treatment.

The court overruled Flaminiano's objection.

"We consider the recommendation of the prosecution," Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice and Special Division chair Teresita Leonardo de Castro ruled in open court.

Former Miss Philippines contestant Pelaez and her mother had earlier accused Estrada of money laundering. The Manila Standard Today published their story.

Back breastfeeding, ex-Solgen asks SC

RAUL GOCO, FORMER SOLICITOR GENERAL of the Philippines and presently jurist of the UN International Law Commission, has asked the Supreme Court not to issue a temporary restraining order against the implementation of the new rules and regulations for Executive Order 51 which promotes breastfeeding.

"For years, violations of EO 51 were rife because no new IRR were issued to give teeth to the law. Now in 2006, after 11 draft versions and 20 years after EO 51 was signed into law (1986), the 12th version of the new IRR was finally approved," Goco said.

"This is an issue between the health of Filipino babies and profits of predatory commercial interests," he said. "Exclusive breastfeeding in the first 6 months of life is down to 26 percent in the Philippines, especially in the Metro Manila area, where formula milk advertising is most felt."

"According to WHO statistics, 30 percent of the family income is spent on formula milk. According to the Unicef, breastfeeding is the most far-reaching and the cheapest strategy for the alleviation of poverty," Goco said.

Kapatiran group out to 'evangelize politics'

NANDY PACHECO, FOUNDER-PRESIDENT of Ang Kapatiran political party appealed to the lay faithful in the council of the laity of Antipolo (CLAN) last week, to join his group and "evangelize politics in a holistic and integral way."

According to Pacheco, what inspired his group (Ang Kapatiran was accredited as a national political party by the Commission on Elections on May 8, 2004) to embark political evangelization was a 1997 pastoral statement from the Catholic bishops: "Philippine politics—the way it is practiced has been most hurtful for us as a people. It is possibly the biggest bane in our life as a nation and the most pernicious obstacle to our achieving full development."

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, July 18, 2006
15h Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	**Is 7:1-9**
Gospel:	**Matthew 11:20-24**

Jesus began to denounce the cities in which he had performed most of his miracles, because the people there did not change their ways, "Alas for you Chorazin and Bethsaida! If the miracles worked in you had taken place in Tyre and Sidon, the people there would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I assure you, for Tyre and Sidon it will be more bearable on the day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to heaven? You will be thrown down to the place of the dead! For if the miracles which were performed in you had taken place in Sodom, it would still be there today! But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you."

Commentary

Unless your faith is firm, you shall not be firm. In ancient Israel, the destiny of Israel as a nation was closely tied to its adherence to the covenant. When they ignore justice and God, then they are overrun by others. Decade after decade, each generation fails and must be called back to obedience. Jesus' way is that of reproach too. Where he does the most work, and healing, and bringing hope, no one responds. They want the miracles, not conversion; not even Jesus' presence. And there will be justice and judgment. There will be us as well, who have had the Word, the Eucharist, the Spirit in community, the power of so many before us in faith. Will Jesus reproach us too?

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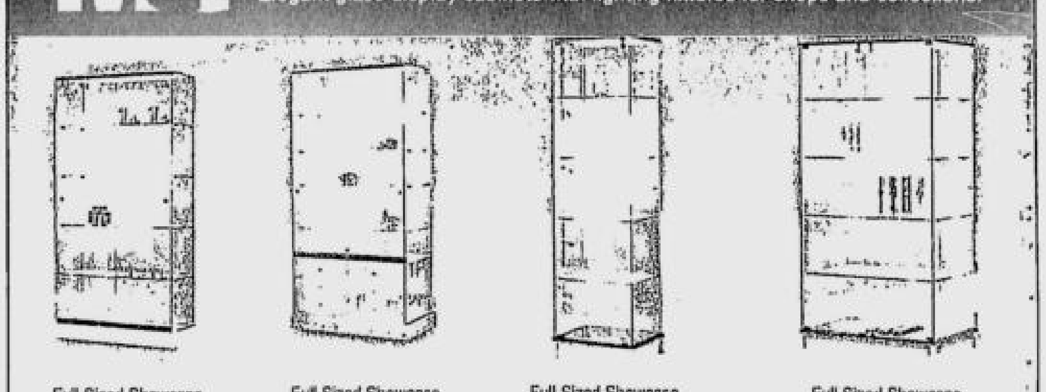

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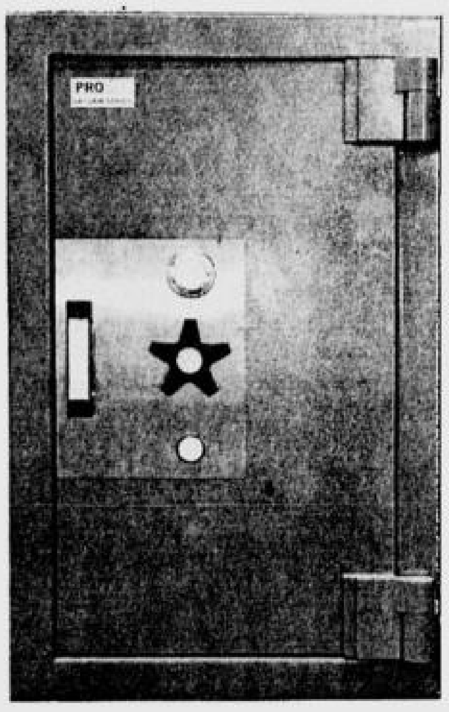

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Ports exec suspended; LLDA head acquitted

By Nelson F. Flores

OMBUDSMAN MERCEDITAS Gutierrez suspended for six months without pay Cebu Ports Authority General Manager Mariano Martinez after he was found guilty of using a government vehicle in bringing and fetching his daughter from school.

Gutierrez said she ordered the suspension of Martinez after investigating a complaint before the Office of the Ombudsman-Visayas alleging among others that ports manager used a government vehicle for his own personal use.

But the Ombudsman struck out in another case yesterday after former Laguna Lake Development Authority general manager Ariel Almendral was acquitted by the Sandiganbayan Fourth Division from the malversation charge filed against him by the Ombudsman in 2004.

The antigraft court held that the Ombudsman failed to prove that Almendral embezzled LLDA funds amounting to P153,848.53.

The Ombudsman's case against Almendral stemmed from a special audit of the financial records of the LLDA in July 1993 by the Commission on Audit, which showed that he incurred a cash shortage.

After the COA auditors sent a demand letter, Almendral asked for an extension to gather supporting documents. He was referred to the audit team's unit head who just ignored his plea.

The audit report was subsequently finalized with the finding that Almendral incurred no fund shortage.

Meanwhile, Gutierrez said she was set to file criminal and administrative charges against 30 other public officials and employees for alleged unauthorized use of government vehicles.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is escorted by Col. Moammar Gadhafi upon her arrival for a state banquet dinner at the Bab Aziza, the Libyan leader's residence in Tripoli, Libya, Monday. Ms Arroyo is in Libya for a two-day state visit. JERRY CARUAL/PCPO

GMA seeks 'friendship price' for Libyan oil

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo yesterday kicked off her state visit in Libya with a one-hour meeting with Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi where she batted for easy terms for the country's oil imports.

They also discussed ways to improve the welfare of overseas Filipino workers in the predominantly Muslim nation.

A statement from Malacañang said Ms Arroyo stepped out of her one-on-one meeting in Gadhafi's tent to the "cheers of the guests" at the banquet prepared in Gadhafi's heavily fortified residence.

Ms Arroyo had said before her trip to Libya that she would seek a "friendship price" from the oil-producing country to ensure adequate supply to the Philippines in the event of market disruptions.

But Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said the government would first consult with the private sector whether they wanted to source their oil supplies from Libya considering the additional transport costs its long distance from the Philippines would entail.

The two leaders also discussed the Tripoli Agreement, which served as the basis for the establishment of an autonomous region for Muslims in Mindanao.

Ms Arroyo is expected to arrive in the Philippines at 6:45 p.m. today.

RP bancas to join Lake Genev

By Blanche S. Rivera

PHILIPPINE FISHING BOATS will be the highlight of an international fluvial protest on Lake Geneva in Switzerland next week as the World Trade Organization opens another round of talks to forge agreements on trade in agriculture and non-agriculture market access (Nama).

Ten Filipino fishermen from the Kilusang Mangingisda are set to fly to Geneva on July 22, a few days ahead of the July 27 WTO General Council meeting, to build four fishing boats in a public place in the Swiss capital.

Carrying up to four protesters each, the Philippine bancas would sail alongside yachts from supporting organizations and boats by Swiss fishermen when the international fluvial parade kicks off on July 27.

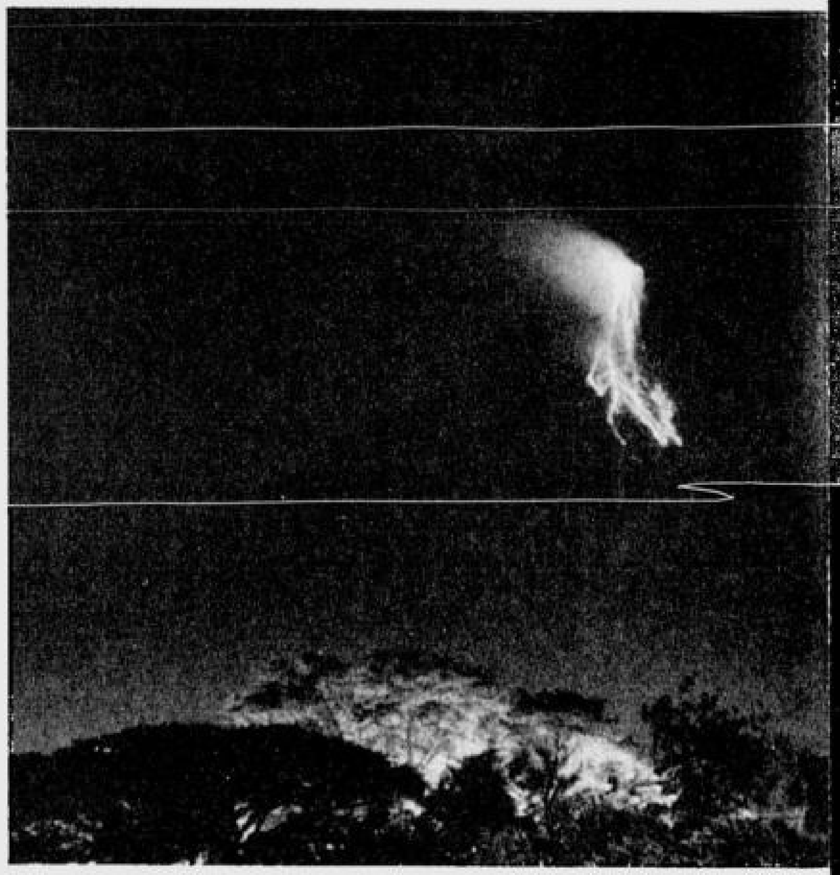
The fluvial parade, replicating the KM's protest in Hong Kong during the WTO's sixth ministerial conference last December, would include members of La Via Campesina, Southeast Asia Fisherfolk Movement and other organizations under the Stop the New Round Coalition.

"This will be a dramatic action from the small Filipino fishermen who will be worst hit by the any Nama agreement," KM chair Ruperto Aleroza said in a press briefing yesterday.

With around 900 coastal municipalities and 1.8 million small fishers, the Philippines would suffer huge losses when imports flood the market under a liberalized economy.

The Philippines lost P28 billion representing 17.2 percent of foregone tariff revenues last year, according to Tambuyog Development Center, a research and development group.

Southeast Asia's 12 million fisherfolk are also threatened by imports from China and Japan whose heavily subsidized fishing sectors can afford to sell their products at a much cheaper price.



VOLCANIC FLAME
Lava flowing out of Mayon Volcano crater looks like a giant torch in the nig
Legaspi City Sunday.

Gov't plans to subsidiz fuel in case oil hits $1

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERing granting subsidies on diesel fuel, which is a partial revival of the Oil Price Stabilization Fund, to protect public commuters from sky-high oil prices.

This was according to Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor, who said the government might even opt to pay for the P1 discount being shouldered by oil companies on their diesel sales especially if oil prices continued to spiral higher.

"We're looking at a scenario of oil prices reaching $100 per barrel and the government has to step in to provide direct relief to public commuters. We just can't let oil price go up like that without doing anything," Defensor said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has been prodding oil companies to maintain a discount lane in their gasoline stations where public utility jeepneys could buy diesel at P1 off the regular pump price.

This is one of the mitigating measures the President has adopted since oil prices started their steep ascent a few years ago. The other measures are lowering tariffs on oil imports, providing cash vouchers for dis-

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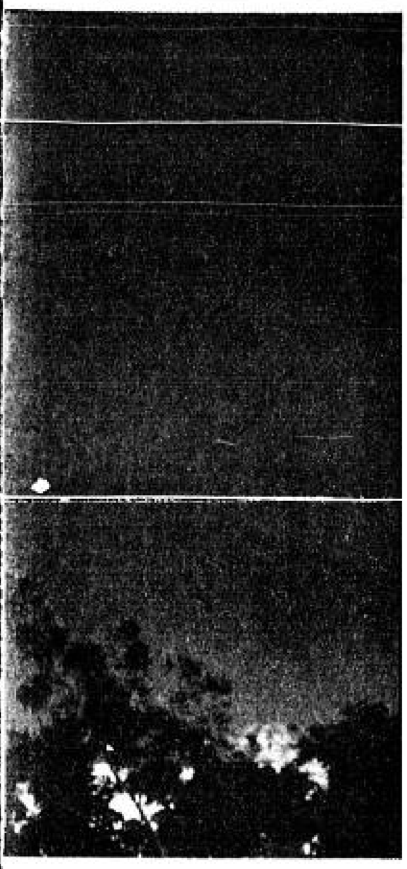

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counts on LPG, and encouraging the use of bio-fuel to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

Intensifying Middle East tensions had pushed up oil prices to a record high of $76 per barrel. Defensor said the government had little option, aside from direct subsidies, to ease the oil crunch.

Defensor said that if the government decided to subsidize oil prices anew, it would be temporary and limited only to diesel. He said the government did not plan to revive the OPSF, which was abolished 10 years ago, with the deregulation of the oil industry.

GMA foes prepare 'Operation Heckle'

By DJ Yap

UNLIKE THE STORM AND STRESS of past rallies, heckling and protest humor will be the order of the day on July 24 when President Macapagal-Arroyo delivers her sixth State of the Nation Address (Sona).

But the theme of this year's mammoth Sona demonstration will be anything but funny.

For one, a 12-foot effigy will depict the 59-year-old president as Adolf Hitler—a testament, according to militants, to her dictatorial tendencies.

It will show Ms Arroyo sporting a clipped mustache and clad in a Nazi uniform. The effigy will even come complete with mechanical arms that can perform Hitler's infamous salute, according to Bagong Alyansang Makabayan.

Now under construction by the artist group Ugat Lahi, the effigy will be escorted by demonstrators dressed as motorcycle-riding "death squads," according to the militant group.

Bayan will lead some 20,000 protestors in a march along Commonwealth Avenue and a demonstration in front of Ever Gotesco Mall on July 24, after the Quezon City government granted the group's application for a rally permit.

On July 23, the eve of the Sona, demonstrators will begin assembling at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, where they will stage a night-long vigil, according to Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr.

A contingent from Bayan-Southern Tagalog will also converge at the Commission on Human Rights for a similar vigil.

"Those from Southern Tagalog and Central Luzon regions have to be here by June 23, so they won't be blocked at checkpoints on their way here," said Carl Ala, public information officer of Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

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OPINION

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Happy people

EDITORIAL

A STUDY THAT MEASURES QUALITY OF LIFE against environmental impact recently showed that the tiny South Pacific Ocean archipelago of Vanuatu is the happiest country on earth. The same study, made by the British think tank New Economics Foundation, ranked the Philippines 17th in the Happy Planet Index.

The index strips the view of the economy back to the absolute basics: what we put in (resources) and what comes out (human lives of different length and happiness). The index combines life satisfaction, life expectancy and environmental footprint—the amount of land required to sustain the population and absorb its energy consumption.

This is not the first time that the Philippines has ranked high in "happiness" surveys and studies. Several years ago, a Hong Kong ad agency found the Philippines to be the happiest place among a group that included Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong and China.

The World Values Survey published by the University of Michigan in November 2004 showed the Philippines to be the "happiest" among Asian countries, purportedly because 93 percent of Filipinos are happy, followed by Japan with 90 percent; Taiwan, 89 percent; China 84 percent; Pakistan, 83 percent; and Indonesia, 77 percent. The World Health Organization has also found that the Philippines has the lowest suicide rate in Asia.

In the 2001 round done by the Social Weather Stations for World Values Survey, the Philippines ranked 31st, slightly above the international average of happiest people. And among Asian nations, the Philippines ranked 7th, after Indonesia and Singapore, both 95 percent; Vietnam, 92 percent; Taiwan, 91 percent; Japan, 89 percent; and South Korea, 88 percent.

The self-perception that the Philippines is one of the happiest countries on Earth is paradoxical, because it is one of the poorest and most deprived nations. Thirty percent of the people live below the poverty threshold; many families eat only two meals a day. Millions have no access to medical and health services and many people die without even seeing or enjoying the services of a doctor.

How can we Filipinos remain optimistic and happy when our nation is not only suffering from grinding poverty but also from unceasing political turmoil, unabated graft and corruption and environmental destruction? On top of this, the Center for Research and Epidemiology of Disasters has ranked the Philippines as the world's most disaster-prone country. Not a year passes that the Philippines is not struck by floods, typhoons, landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and even by—only in the Philippines—"trash" slides. It is not an exaggeration to say that at any time, somewhere in the country there is a place that is just waiting for a disaster to happen.

Alan C. Robles, writing in Time Asia in February 2005, said that for Filipinos "happiness isn't material—it's social. We're happiest in a group: family, friends, immediate community, even strangers." The group is the Filipinos' defense against life's unfairness. Robles also said that Filipinos are known for their resilience and self-sufficiency.

INQUIRER columnist Michael L. Tan, an anthropologist, said that Filipinos survive because they anticipate the worst. "Because we expect the worst, we are 'happy' with whatever happens," he said. And so "happiness," in the sense of "*saya*," becomes in itself a coping mechanism with the bad things that happen to us in life.

Resilience and self-sufficiency: fate may throw anything at the Filipino but he will be able to cope with it. No jobs in the Philippines? Work as an overseas contract worker. Income insufficient to make both ends meet? Start a small business as a "sideline." Daily earnings not sufficient? Eat cheap noodles every day. "Ba(t)hala na." Leave it to God, and God will take care of you.

Even in dealing with social and political problems, Filipinos resort to humor and merriment to cope with worrisome situations. Political jokes go the rounds of barbershops, coffeeshops, restaurants and bars—any place where Filipinos congregate and socialize. When they feel almost powerless to cope with a political problem, Filipinos crack jokes. They can thus forget their misery and misfortune and go on to face another day.

Bertrand Russell said that "the secret of happiness is to face the fact that the world is horrible, horrible, horrible." We suspect that we Filipinos have all along known this truth. In the face of so much poverty, misery and trouble, we can still smile and remain happy.

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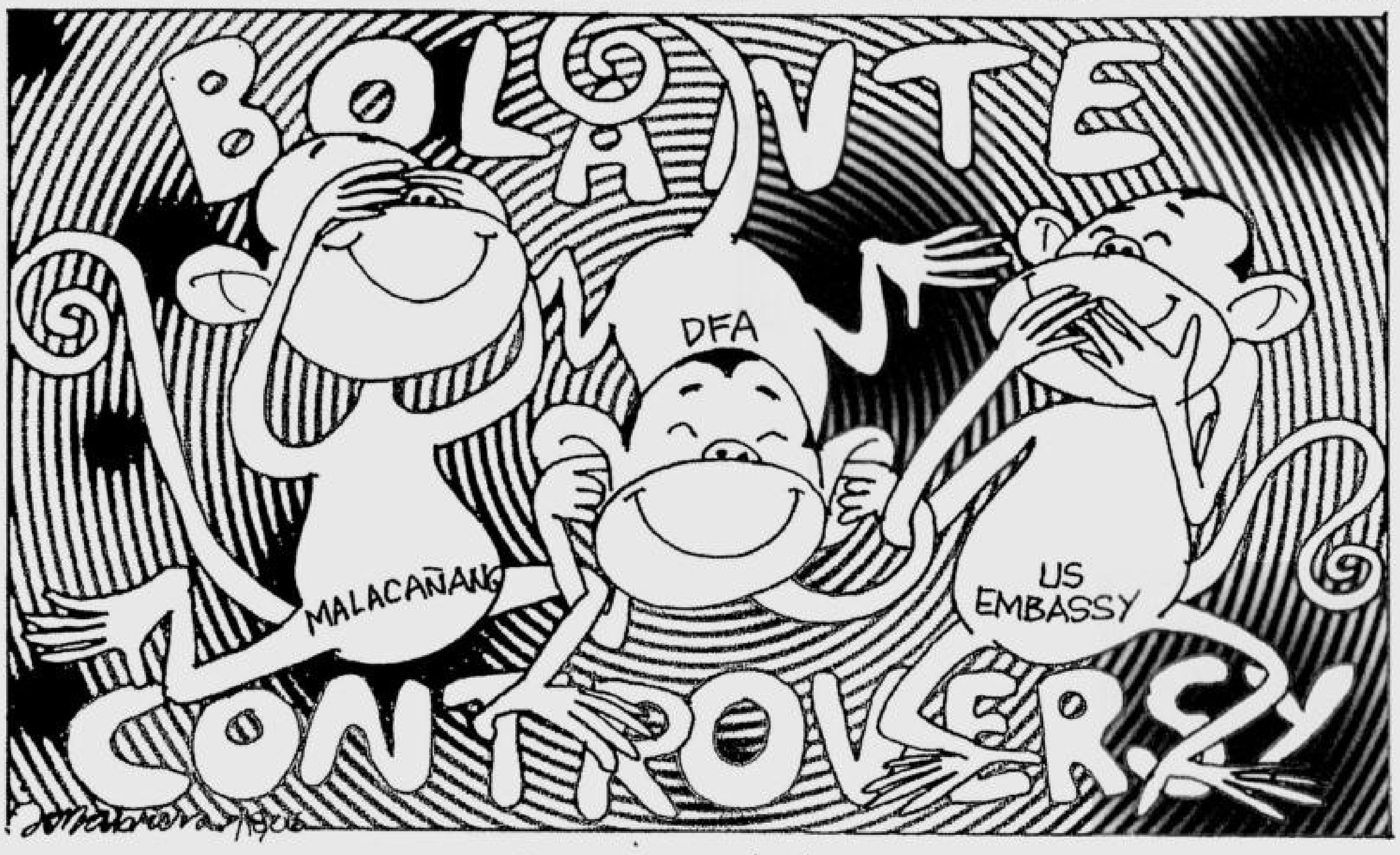

Gaps and dots

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF the Philippines' latest pastoral statement uncorked a torrent of commentary that continues to this day. Much of it swirls around Paragraphs 24.1 and 24.2 or "Impeachment"—and little else.

A tainted, bickering opposition sought the sprinkling of holy water on its second bid to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo. It didn't get it.

A corrupt, cynical administration scrounged for absolution that'd exorcise political legitimacy questions. It didn't get it either.

The deluge, unfortunately, swamped other sections of the statement. Yet, they seek to apply, as a subhead says, "to some burning social issues" the Church's social teachings. We are our brother's keeper, would sum up the message.

In paragraph 22, the CBCP comments on "The Family Under Siege." Paragraph 26 examines "Extra-Judicial Killings." Parts of the introduction and paragraph 28 onwards grapple with the question: "Are we really a people without hope?"

"Cafeteria journalism" is the reason for these gaps, our critics snort. Many in the press, they claim, don't plow through the full text of major documents, whether a budget, academic study or pastoral letter. We're content to work by broadcast sound bytes or condensed newspaper reports. Thus, few read through the pastoral statement. Yet, it's only eight pages short.

Unyielding deadlines box us into hurried work patterns, we bleat. And we're always moving on to the next headline. But the glut of patchy reporting and shallow comment sell our readers and listeners short. "Superficiality is the bane of our craft."

"With a sad feeling of debilitating hopelessness, (the poor) wonder when the seemingly endless political battles in Manila would ever give way to the pressing problems of their daily economic struggles," the prelates wrote. "They (ask) if their deepening impoverishment would ever find a unified political response."

"Salvaging" is more widespread than many suspect. "A great number of extra-judicial killings sometimes do not come to light in the newspapers," paragraph 26 asserts. "But (they) are known to us in our dioceses."

Faith-based opposition to murder is of "long standing," the statement says. This is an understatement. The Fifth Commandment came down from Mount Sinai. It antedates by seven thousand years or so today's "outcry of those who denounce the increasing number of journalists and social activists," supposedly instigated by "ultra-rightist elements in the military."

"We join this outcry," the bishops said. "But we can not close our eyes ... to killings reported by our people, allegedly perpetrated by insurgents for various reasons, as such *agaw-armas* operations, failure to pay a revolutionary tax or 'blood debt to the people.'"

The pastoral statement does not mention the Communist Party of the Philippines, the New People's Army or its multiple fronts. Neither does it pinpoint vigilante murders, egged on by officials in cities like Davao and Cebu City. But you can connect the dots.

"These we also unequivocally denounce," the bishops say. "The defense of human rights and human dignity must itself be just. It has to be impartial, irrespective of religious belief or ideology."

Paragraph 23 bluntly slams the administration's jockeying to overhaul the Constitution, despite the lack of an enabling law and other legal infirmities. "We do not support hasty efforts to change the fundamental law ... without widespread citizen participation, total transparency," the statement says. That task "is best done through a constitutional convention... Elections in 2007 must not be cancelled."

That wallops the administration's "No-El" game plan to stay in power until 2010—and beyond. As a constituent assembly, incumbent legislators would write themselves into Parliament for three more years. They'd also vest the President with "Marcosian" powers, from appointing 30 parliamentarians to overseeing the prime minister.

Here, too, the "people's initiative" is not named. Here, you also can stitch those dots together.

In Asia, the family nurtures a "culture of life," the 8th Assembly of Asian Bishops said in their Daejon (South Korea) meeting. But paragraph 22 of the CBCP letter says the family here is today "most seriously threatened" by trends that uproot them from moral and religious roots. Comment on migration would have reinforced this section.

"Has our being Christians made our society more peaceful and just?" the pastoral statement asks. It'd be easy to "answer no—if we focus only on the many critical problems that plague Philippine society. So far, (these) have been intractable to any satisfying solution ... (giving) way to a deepening sense of helplessness."

But "away from the glare of publicity," there's a different—and more hopeful—picture. Lay men and women, with priests and religious, "quietly put into practice what they understand Christian social concern means."

That spans battling usury, unjust contracts, endemic corruption to improving the nutritional status of children. In election affairs "nonpartisan groups, like Kapatiran and One Voice are. . . especially to be commended and encouraged," it said.

What gives hope for a more just society tomorrow are ordinary citizens who do their duties with extraordinary fidelity. But isn't this "people power"—only spelt in lower case? And it's being wielded not merely to impeach a President but root out the causes that trigger "People Power" (capitalized).

Thread those dots together.

What coup?

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

RAUL GONZALEZ'S INTENTION CLEARLY IS to show how real the threat to the GMA government is and how devious the people making those threats are. He now has proof, he says, that some 20 businessmen financed the threatened coup last February, which could be more if you counted those that gave the destabilizers aid and comfort. Indeed, it's not just businessmen who are into this. The meeting in Jose "Peping" Cojuangco's house that Nelly Sindayen mentioned in her Time article, says Gonzalez, was also attended by two high-ranking government officials. "Imagine having Cabinet-level officials attending such a conclave. It means these people are traitors and that is punishable by law."

In fact, all Gonzalez succeeds in doing is to show how deeply alienated the government he is serving is and how, contrary to their own propaganda, the business community is not solidly behind them. I really would wish he would name those who financed or supported or sympathized with Danny Lim's cause. At the very least it would show that Donald Duck does not speak for the businessmen, he merely speaks for himself. To go by the exact same words he said during Erap's time, pleading with the coup plotters that included GMA to give Erap one more chance as he was certain the fellow could experience a change of heart, his support for presidents is generic: He has a template expressing undying loyalty to the Big Boss with only the name of the Big Boss left blank.

At the very most, it would give the public to see the difference in quality between those trying to prop up an illegitimate regime and those trying to end it. I ardently hope Gonzalez reveals the names of the presumably errant businessmen and Cabinet officials so that we may compare them to Donald Duck and him. The Cabinet-level officials who plotted to overthrow GMA are traitors who may expect to be punished by law? They are patriots who may count on the undying gratitude of their countrymen!

But truly Gonzalez makes a spectacle of himself every time he invokes the law, which has the sensation of Garci calling his detractors liars. Shouldn't he really be saying, representing as he does the majesty of the law: "Imagine a presidential candidate plotting like that with Garci! It means she is a traitor and that is punishable by firing squad!"? But then he wouldn't have been justice secretary to begin with.

But my question remains: What coup? Or in relation to the above, what exactly were the businessmen and Cabinet officials whom Gonzalez threatens to identify financing, aiding, or coddling?

Shortly after ABS-CBN came out with a video of Lim speaking his mind out during his withdrawal of support on Feb. 23, several TV stations interviewed experts about the history of military intervention in public affairs in this country, specifically the coup attempts. Most of the guests agreed that the politicization of the military, which gave them a "praetorian mentality," was the prime reason for these attempts.

They missed the point. There is a fundamental difference between the coup attempts of the past and Lim's action, and one that goes well beyond the technicality of the phrase "withdrawal of support." Two things stand out in particular.

One, the coup attempts of the past, notably the ones led by RAM against Cory, were attempts to overthrow a duly constituted authority, one directly and freely established by the people and enjoying the support of the people. The plotters did not mean to conscript public support for their cause—Cory enjoyed that support—they meant to seize power by force and defend it against the people by force. Had they won, they would have needed to pacify a restive public with arms afterward.

Lim's withdrawal of support, on the other hand, was an attempt to overthrow an unduly-instituted authority, one directly and forcibly mounted by fraud. Lim's statement harped on the use of the military to cheat the voters of their vote. The plotters did not just mean to enlist the public to their cause, they counted on it. Had they won, they would have needed to pacify their countrymen from their joyous, ecstatic and drunken revelry.

Two, and more importantly, there is an easy way to tell a coup from something else. A coup is an overthrow of government, with the plotters expressly intending to take over government. It isn't just an overthrow of power, it is a seizure of power. That was what the RAM coup attempts of the past were: They meant to seize power from "the politicians," who had presumably betrayed the dreams of Edsa. And that was what GMA's electoral plot was: She meant to seize power for herself and for no other reason than that she liked it.

Nowhere in his statement did Lim say he was going to run the government himself. Indeed, as the newspapers and TV stations subsequently reported, his idea was to bring a transitional government into being composed of people other than him. Indeed, civilians rather than generals.

But that's the part, too, that I am unhappy about. I've always argued that any attempt to oust the current government—or end the current junta—by people power or any other means can only be justified on the basis of snap elections being called afterward. Not by any formal council, transitional or permanent. If the issue is illegitimacy, then the solution is legitimacy. That can only be supplied by new—and clean—elections. Anything else opens itself to charges of hidden agenda, personal interest, selfish motives. Indeed, anything else voids the cause for which ending an illegitimate government was undertaken. Why end an unelected rule only to set up another?

But right now, I'm all ears. Pray tell us, Mr. Justice Secretary, who are the coup plotters in our midst?

Prospect of oil at $100 per barrel calls for unity

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE ESCALATION OF THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS due to open war between Hezbollah, a group of Sh'ite militants in southern Lebanon, and Israel holds terrible consequences for the world. And not surprisingly, the Middle East crisis became the top item on the agenda of the G-8 Summit of World Leaders Russia hosted over the weekend in the historic city of St. Petersburg. As the crisis escalated, world leaders aired their appeal for a ceasefire between the warring sides and put on US President George W. Bush the burden of pressuring Israel to agree to this so that mediation efforts could start.

World leaders are very worried that the Middle East situation could spin out of control, and it's easy to see why. The Gaza-based Hamas has escalated its attacks on Israel's front, in sympathy with Hezbollah, and the Taliban in Afghanistan has also moved. Israel did not lose a moment to retaliate. What's even more worrisome, if we are to believe US Secretary of State Condolezza Rice, is that Iran may be pulling the strings in this recent crisis.

* * *

In the war between militant Muslim groups and Israel, many nations far from the conflict normally would remain mere spectators. But if the whole world is concerned now, it is because of one thing: oil. Through the conflict area, the Strait of Hormuz, passes about 25 percent of the world's oil supply. Since the recent crisis erupted, oil prices have skyrocketed to over $77 per barrel and it is feared that the price could shoot up to $100 a barrel. Analysts are urging consumers around the globe to rethink their pattern of using oil, especially their driving habits, in anticipation of such an escalation in prices.

* * *

Sadly for a small developing economy like the Philippines, we're very vulnerable and such an astronomical price would spell disaster for us. Faced with this terrible prospect, we should rethink our energy policy. This early, the government should launch a campaign to drastically reduce the use of oil. This crisis should also make our politicians realize that there are more terrible consequences from a $100-a-barrel oil than stupid circuses such as a new impeachment case against President Arroyo. This is a time for unity and leadership.

* * *

The director general of the Philippine Export Zone Authority, Lilia B. De Lima, recently became the first Filipino non-head of state to be decorated with the Order of the Rising Sun (Gold and Silver category) by the Emperor of Japan, at fitting ceremonies held at Japanese Ambassador Ryuichiro Yamazaki's residence. Playing a large role in her award, one of the highest conferred by the Emperor, were the Japanese corporations operating in our country. This was not surprising, for as Yamazaki pointed out in his speech, since De Lima became Peza head in 1997, it "has accounted for over 98 percent of the total investments in the country, with nearly 40 percent coming from 527 Japanese companies." Those figures, said Yamazaki, speak well of the Japanese businessmen's "overwhelming satisfaction" with Peza and admiration for De Lima.

* * *

Yamazaki also noted that since De Lima assumed the helm, Peza has been operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week—a "non-stop shop"—and that, as BizNews Asia Magazine put it, Peza got rid of the "two things that irritate investors most: red tape and corruption." One indication of satisfaction among locators is that more than 50 percent of them are going ahead with their expansion activities.

The ambassador also noted that De Lima streamlined Peza, cutting the number of employees to half the 1006 she inherited in 1997 even as its economic zones have grown from 16 to 88 and the number of companies operating there expanded from 300 to over 1,000 today.

What the coveted Japanese award shows us is that the Filipino bureaucrat can chalk up a world-class achievement—in this case, as Yamazaki put it, "a world-class investment environment"—if he wants to. Unfortunately, how many bureaucrats are like De Lima?

* * *

Cecile Alvarez and I were happy to interview De Lima at our dzRH program for two Sundays. An interview with her is always a pleasure, for she has remained upbeat about the Pinoy worker and the country's prospects despite various problems it faces. All indicators are up: Peza's income at the end of last May stood at P21.7 billion, up from P18.4 billion last year, and 86 percent of exports come from Peza zones, whose exports registered a 10.5 percent increase this year. One of the most notable locators is Texas Instruments, which manufactures the "brain of the cell phones." The Baguio-based TI, which employs about 1,000 Filipino engineers and is managed by Norberto "Bing" Viera, the first Filipino to assume its top post, is No. 1 in profitability among all TI companies in the world. TI has been employing graduates from lesser known schools, who, its GM says, are often better motivated because they come from poorer families.

* * *

De Lima is enthusiastic about the 58 information technology parks and buildings in Peza and the fact that the biggest call-center companies abroad are already here, among them Convergys, People's Support and Teletech, and opening up branches in the provinces. What's good about the IT business is that it's drawing employees from small private schools around the country that have trained students well in English.

There seems to be no end to IT prospects. Aside from medical and legal transcription and animation, which are already fairly established, there is, for instance, an office in Laguna which does transcription of scientific journals. The IT business, De Lima said, has increased 103 percent, from P1.74 billion in the first five months last year to P3.55 billion in the same period this year.

Such a good friend

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ONCE AGAIN, WE HAVE LEFT TO A FOREIGN government what our own government could not do, that is, bring a fugitive to justice and ensure that he gets his due.

Former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante is right now in the custody of American immigration authorities after his visa was reportedly cancelled. Early reports said Bolante's visa was cancelled upon the request of the Senate committee on agriculture, headed by Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., who had been waiting in vain for Bolante to show up at its hearings and shed light on the P728-million fertilizer fund.

But lawyer Francisco Chavez, who exposed the fund scam, denied that such a request was made, saying all the committee had asked the US Embassy was for assistance in locating Bolante and serving its summons to him. "No action was taken" on this request, notes Chavez, which seems really strange since Bolante had been flying back and forth from the Philippines to the United States, allegedly as part of his responsibilities as a director of Rotary International.

Now Chavez claims that Bolante's arrest and detention, and his subsequent appeal for asylum, are all part of a scheme hatched by Malacañang. If so, then Bolante must be a most faithful friend and ally. As payment for his silence and cooperation, he has endured a fugitive's existence, a stint at the San Pedro detention center, and he now faces a few years of exile, separated from his family, while he awaits a decision on his application for asylum.

* * *

WHAT'S strange here is that while Malacañang professes ignorance about the reasons for Bolante's detention and his prospects for repatriation, the Department of Foreign Affairs seems happy to let the situation play out without any intervention from the Philippine government.

If indeed Bolante was arrested because his visa was cancelled, shouldn't the DFA be making representations to have Bolante deported and then compelled to testify before the Senate? And if he is seeking political asylum, on grounds that he fears persecution in his homeland, shouldn't the DFA seek to counter Bolante's claims as patently absurd since he is after all a known political ally of the President, a good friend of the First Gentleman, and a former government official who has enjoyed extraordinary immunity even as plunder charges have already been filed against him with the Ombudsman?

While connected with the Department of Agriculture, Bolante was at odds with many other officials of the department, who complained about his arrogant behavior and the way he would go over the head of the agriculture secretary and report directly to "FG" on matters relating to the DA. Bolante's boss at the time of the alleged fund diversion, former Agriculture Secretary Cito Lorenzo, also faces plunder charges on the same case, but has already relocated with his entire family to the United States, purportedly to avoid having to testify on what he knows of that scam.

* * *

IT is alleged that the fertilizer fund was diverted to "friendly" congressmen as part of a general scheme to oil the wheels of victory for the President and her allies in the 2004 elections.

Malacañang has denied any such link between the scam and the election results, but it seems the machinations leading to the desired outcome of the 2004 polls is the "original sin" that continues to haunt the administration, perhaps well into and beyond the end of the President's term in 2010.

The tainted elections lie at the root of almost every major scandal and crisis that has beset the Arroyo administration, from the "Garci" tapes to the alleged involvement of generals in electoral cheating (which apparently led to restiveness within the military and a reported coup plot), from this fertilizer fund scam to the series of policy decisions and appointments that are increasing proof of the President's compulsion to pay political debts.

* * *

WHICH brings us to the pastoral statement of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, already parsed, analyzed and deconstructed by a number of commentators.

The most controversial portion of the letter was that concerning the second impeachment case filed against the President, and the CBCP's conclusion that the impeachment process was not the best "means for establishing the truth." The bishops concluded that the process could not succeed unless all the parties concerned "are guided by no other motive than genuine concern for the common good."

Others have concluded that the statement is a reflection of "political pragmatism" on the part of the bishops. Pragmatic or not, the bishops' moral ascendancy is steadily being eroded in the wake of reports that prior to the issuance of the pastoral letter, the prelates were being wooed with gifts of food, vestments and envelopes of cash, thrust into their pockets by people who enjoyed extraordinary access to them.

I'm inclined to read the statement in another way, and that is, to interpret it as the bishops' collective expression of cynicism and world-weariness regarding local politics, acknowledging that none of the parties involved in the impeachment process comes to it with clean hands.

If the bishops' non-support for impeachment is seen as their doubting the motives of the opposition leaders (including one of their own) who have filed a complaint, it could also be read as an assessment of the moral moorings of the President herself and that of her supporters in Congress who can be expected to derail the process. Maybe all they're saying is that if we want to get to the bottom of the 2004 elections, impeaching the President is not the way to go. Some other solution must be found.

An agenda for Latin America

WORLD VIEW

Sebastian Edwards

DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS, LATIN America has experienced an economic boom without precedent. Growth has been strong, inflation is under control and international reserves have increased steadily. The 2004-2006 period has been the best three years for Latin America's economies since the early 1960s.

This bonanza has largely been the result of an extraordinarily positive international environment. Commodity export prices are at record levels, global liquidity has been ample and international interest rates have been low.

Yet, despite this good news, the continent's politics have turned upside down, calling into question whether economic success can be sustained. An increasing number of Latin American countries have elected Left-wing presidents who criticize market reforms and globalization. Colombia recently bucked this trend, and it now appears that the leftist candidate in Mexico's presidential election, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, was narrowly defeated. But voters have catapulted Left-wing politicians to power in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela and Uruguay, while López retains the ability—and perhaps the will—to mobilize his supporters.

The main concern is that Left-wing politicians will implement populist policies that will generate large fiscal deficits, high inflation and, eventually, currency collapses. External crises have a long history in the region. Since the 1970s, Latin American countries have experienced, on average, 1.6 balance of payments crises per decade. Some of the better known are the Mexican crisis of 1994-95, the Brazilian crisis of 1999 and the Argentine crisis of 2001-2002.

The economic consequences of these crises have been gigantic. On average, each of them cost the Latin American countries 12 percent of their Gross Domestic Product.

However, concern about populist policies is not fully justified. The current crop of Left-wing political leaders is different from the populist "caudillos" of the past. They understand that macroeconomic imbalances—and, in particular, inflation—are costly and lead to frustration. Even Venezuela's Hugo Chávez, the most vociferous of them, understands the importance of maintaining macroeconomic stability.

Moreover, in recent years, Latin American economies have gone through important economic transformations that have increased their resilience. Chief among these changes has been the adoption, in most countries, of flexible exchange rates and reduction of external debt, particularly government debt. These structural changes have put most Latin American economies on a sound footing, reducing their vulnerability to external shocks, such as deceleration in world economic growth, higher international interest rates and lower commodity prices.

But greater macroeconomic stability does not mean that everything is fine. The main weakness of Latin America's economies is that they will be unable to generate the type of rapid and sustained growth required to create jobs and reduce inequality and poverty.

Generating the rapid long-term economic growth that Latin American countries need requires that they fulfill three conditions. First, they must accumulate capital, which implies a high savings rate that will help pay for new machines, equipment and infrastructure. Second, they need to use their work forces efficiently, which requires modern labor legislation that encourages employment of women, the young and senior citizens. Finally, they need to attain a rapid rate of productivity growth, which can be achieved only by ensuring a high-quality, broadly accessible educational system.

The vast majority of Latin America countries do not fulfill any of these requirements. At 19 percent of GDP, national savings rates are very low—indeed, much lower than in Asia—and labor legislation is antiquated, discouraging efficient use of human capital, while productivity growth is meager. Indeed, students from Latin American countries consistently score at the very bottom of international achievement tests such as the Program for International Student Assessment and the Third International Math and Science Survey.

The main challenge for Latin America's new leaders, whether of the Left or the Right, is to implement reforms that will accelerate growth. The continent needs measures that are designed to encourage savings and investment, improve labor utilization and upgrade failed educational systems. Only if growth is significantly faster over the long run will living standards for the vast majority of the region's voters begin to rise.

Project Syndicate

Sebastian Edwards is professor of economics at the University of California-Los Angeles and a former chief economist for Latin America and the Caribbean at the World Bank.

ABC

YOUNG BLOOD

Ria Tirazona

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

AFTER SEVEN YEARS OF TEACHING PRESCHOOL CHILdren, I put away my crayons, washed off the finger paints and took off the glitters from my face for the very last time. But as I looked at the murals we had painstakingly made, I felt a lump grow in my throat and tears began to well in my eyes. Then it hit me: I was really bidding goodbye.

Now that a new school year has started, it has dawned on me that even though I am at peace with my decision to "grow up" and move to another level in my career, I do miss being "Teacher Ria." For seven years, I had sung silly songs and choreographed and danced with the kids (even if I cannot carry a tune and I have two left feet!). I think I've seen all possible shapes and sizes of cookies, biscuits and cupcakes, and punched hole after hole in all kinds of tetrapack juices. I've been mother, *yaya*, friend, nurse, and everything in between to my kids!

People used to ask why I chose to be a preschool teacher, when it was a thankless job, one that was little more than "just playing" and definitely not very financially rewarding. At every high school reunion or get-together, I would become painfully aware of how my friends had become "successful" and conscious that I still had glue on my pants and stains on my shirt from my kids' spilled snacks. But every time a mother called to say that her son got a Gold Eagle or her daughter earned first honors again, I felt like I had made the right choice.

Reflecting upon my experience, I realize that I didn't just teach children, I learned a lot from them, too. When I taught them the ABC, I learned the ABC, too. And it wasn't just the alphabet: I saw how everything in life can be put together with the alphabet, just like the words the children learned to read. The ABC I learned in preschool made me see what is truly important in life:

I learned the Art of Appreciation and the Beauty of Balance. I saw how important it is to be with the right Company and how Determination can make a Difference. I learned to Enjoy the moment despite change, challenge and frustration.

From the people I worked with, I learned the true value of Friendship and how far it can really go. From the parents who entrusted their children to me, I learned Grace under pressure, especially when their children got hurt or got into a fight, or when they didn't like what I said or did.

I could also say I learned and felt the different meanings of Hugs—those that meant "Thank you," "I'm sorry," "Help," "I'm scared," "I love you," etc.

In the playground, I understood what Integrity and Justice meant. They were not vague grown-up concepts: your word really counted so it's only fair that you kept it.

I now agree that deep down inside, people are really Kind. But because we get caught up in getting more and being more, we forget what random acts of kindness can do.

During snack time, I saw what Labor of Love could produce. It was demonstrated not by the amount or the kind of *baon* the children brought to school, but by how the parents had painstakingly peeled grapes, cut out teeny-weeny peanut butter squares or repacked chips just the way their kids liked them.

I also began to appreciate what being a "Mom" was. But much as I wished that I had kids of my own, I was glad I wasn't one yet because I couldn't afford it.

Something I had a hard time learning was how to say No. But because I was a preschool teacher, I learned to say no and mean it, without being mean going about it.

Some of the most valuable lessons I learned were Patience, patience, patience, and that meant taking a step back when I was mad and spending some Quiet Time or taking Time Out.

In the eyes of my children, I saw what Respect, Sincerity and Unconditional Love really were.

While teaching, I also learned that Violence really doesn't solve anything; that Waiting for your turn is essential; and that we go through life making mistakes that must be marked with an X but should not be regarded as if they were the end of the world. I also realized that Yesterday truly is a thing of the past, and that being the best is not as important as having the Zeal to commit oneself to the task on hand and the determination to be the best that you can be.

But more than anything, it was in the preschool that I came to understand what it means to be a member of the human race. As Robert Fulghum put it, all I really needed to know I learned in kindergarten.

Ria Tirazona, 27, gave up her preschool teaching career to pursue clinical work as a psychologist. She continues teaching part-time as a lecturer with the psychology department of De La Salle University.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Vindictive

"Let him recommend a one-peso budget. Our budget would be reenacted. He is so vindictive,"

—Presidential Commission on Good Government Commissioner Ricardo Abcede, after Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile recommended a P1-budget for the agency because of PCGG officials' refusal to attend a Senate inquiry.

Old skeletons

"To prop up their psywar offensive, the AFP is once again busy hauling their collection of old skeletons from their *bodegas*, dumping them into new excavations and portraying these as so-called NPA mass graves."

—Communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal on allegations that the activist killings are part of the "internal purging" within the Communist Party of the Philippines.

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Violating young minds

AS A NATION THAT PRIDES ITSELF IN being civilized and morally upright, we Filipinos have an obligation to our most precious national treasures—the Filipino children.

And yet, every morning, beginning at 9 a.m., on some free TV channels, children are exposed to promotional videos of breast enhancers, which reduce women into sexual objects whose confidence, success and happiness are based entirely on their bust size.

Children have the right to be protected from obscenity. These infomercials not only have breasts as their sole subject of interest, but also suggest that breasts are the only measure of a woman's worth.

Under the Children's Television Act of 1997, children's viewing hours (7 a.m.-7 p.m.) must be closely monitored for the purpose of protecting the sensibilities of children. Two recent developments tell us why we should take very seriously this law and the responsibility of protecting our children from obscene materials.

1) The Movie and Television Review and Classification Board recently penalized the late night show I-Witness for its episode on the Lukayo "sexually suggestive" tradition and practices. The board said that this was an inappropriate subject for free TV.

2) The controversy over the Department of Education's sex education modules which would use eggplants and bananas as representations of the male sex organs.

The infomercials for breast enhancer products are not even educational in content or intention. And yet they are aired on TV time slots highly accessible to children of impressionable age.

"It's aesthetics. They say that even if you have a beautiful face, if you don't have a cup A for your breasts, you won't look that attractive," to quote these infomercials.

Are these the values we would allow our children to be taught? Should we allow these infomercials to corrupt young minds and leave our children to grow up with a degraded regard of themselves?

Free TV channels have an obligation to society in providing responsible programming, especially during child-viewing hours. If they take the effort to delete cuss words in movies or canned foreign shows, they should act on these infomercials—at the least, move these value-degrading ads into a later time less accessible to children.

We pride ourselves in being a Catholic country, but if we are not even responsible enough as to shield the innocent in our society from dehumanizing values, no religion can save us from indifference. Beyond nursing a guilty conscience, we urge those in authority to do something about this violation against children.

—GEORGINA ANGSANTO,
143 Porvenir Street, Pasay City

Where's Tawi-Tawi in the song?

THIS IS AN APPEAL FOR THE INCLUSION of Tawi-Tawi in the theme song of GMA's daily program Eat Bulaga. In the theme song, the Philippines is made to appear as extending from Aparri to Jolo only. This is a deliberate error that reduces the Philippine islands by 305 islands and islets, one province and 10 municipalities. And it is committed almost every day.

The error also reduces the total land area, territorial waters and population of the country, making the data in the National Statistics Office inadequate or wrong. Uncorrected, the error renders our researchers, geographers and authors of Philippine geography books, journals, charts and maps unreliable.

Worst of all is the bad feeling that all Tawi-Tawians feel everytime they hear the song, which excludes the southernmost province of Tawi-Tawi. It makes us Tawi-Tawians feel disowned by and alienated from our very own countrymen. If Tawi-Tawi is not part of the Philippines, to which country do we belong?

We hope the management of GMA-7 will immediately address this error which is repeated daily in the theme song of "Eat Bulaga."

—ABDULAJID A. ABDULGANI,
MSU, Tawi-Tawi

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

GSIS sadists bullying elderly pensioners

IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR, MY ELDERLY parents and thousands of other pensioners had to troop to the head office of the Government Service Insurance System in Pasay City to have their old pensioner ID replaced with the new GSIS e-card (actually a Union Bank ATM card). Can you imagine the time, money (for food and transportation) and effort the elderly pensioners spent just to get a new GSIS e-card? But they had to make such a sacrifice because the GSIS e-card had been adopted as the new mode of remitting their monthly pensions (the check remittance system using the postal service was going to be "retired" as well).

Even there, the GSIS could have been more considerate by making it more convenient for the senior citizens to get an e-card. How? By having the e-cards for the pensioners in the provinces issued right at its satellite offices/branches. After all, the processing equipment, consisting of a PC with a digital camera, is very portable, and certainly its operators are in much better physical shape to travel than the pensioners are. But obviously making the pensioners undergo the punishing requirement was not enough for the GSIS.

Worse, to date, the GSIS has not made good on its promise that the e-cards can be used to withdraw their monthly pensions from any Megalink-connected bank.

And now the pensioners are required to physically present themselves for GSIS verification during their birth month. Guess where? Again, they have no freedom to choose the nearest GSIS branch office for this exercise. They have to go to the main office in Pasay City. Common sense suggests that since the pensioners had just been to that office last February, this requirement should apply beginning next year. But no, this is going to apply this year; the worst part of it is that there has been no prior notice to this effect. My mother, whose birth month is May, got to know about it only after her pension for July failed to arrive. For this month, what she got from the GSIS was a coldhearted letter from the executive president for operations, informing her of her failure to comply with birth-month-personal-visit requirement.

So what can we do? File a complaint? But where? Even the GSIS e-mail system is not working at this time.

—CESAR RAMOS,
istur420@yahoo.com

Why CBCP did not support impeachment

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, I DISAGREE WITH the two legal experts who said that the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, in their pastoral letter "Shepherding and Prophesying in Hope," is pushing the Filipinos to stage another people power. (PDI, 7/12/06) There is no mention whatsoever about people power in that letter. In fact, there is no hint at all about people in the first place.

And why should people now be pushed to stage people power, when they have not allowed the bishops to push them all along? When the bishops say premarital sex is bad, people in great number engage in premarital sex. When the bishops declare that extra-marital affair is destructive to the family, married people from all walks of life acquire paramours. When the bishops state that artificial family planning is against natural law, pharmacies all over the countryside experience a rise in the sales of pills, condoms and other contraceptives. When the bishops warn that superstition is against the First Commandment of God, everybody believes as Bible-truth the existence of *aswangs, kapre, santilmo*, etc. And a majority of these people are Catholics who profess obedience to bishops and priests as dispensers of truth and morals.

Doesn't this Filipino behavior toward bishops confirm his/her split-level Christianity? Meaning, we disobey the bishops when they talk about morality and faith, and believe them when they discuss politics and economics. We obey them only when what they say is comforting to us. Other than that, we do not give a damn.

This conclusion is inescapable, therefore. If the people now allow themselves to be "pushed," it is not the bishops' authority that they follow. It is their individual, selfish interest. This the CBCP knew when it did not endorse the impeachment complaint of one of its members. And it is for this reason that the bishops will never push people to stage people power.

—EUGENE DAVID R. TANCINCO,
Davao City, pcga801@yahoo.com

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'Jueteng' foes assail gov't inaction

SAN FABIAN, PANGASINAN—"*WALANG TATAYA* (Don't bet)!"

This was the cry of residents who are frustrated with the authorities' inaction on the resurgence of the illegal numbers game jueteng in this central Pangasinan town.

The campaign is spearheaded by the Krusada ng Bayan Laban sa Jueteng chapter here headed by the parish priest, Fr. Oliver Mendoza.

The campaign is focused on the idea that if nobody bets, jueteng will die a natural death in San Fabian (pop: 66,274).

Mendoza said some 500 students, senior citizens and residents trooped to the municipal hall on Monday morning to present a manifesto against jueteng to Mayor Mojamito Libunao Jr.

"The mayor told us he was against jueteng and that he has instructed the town police chief, Supt. Genaro Sapiera, to implement the law (against jueteng). He also asked us to report to the police the 'cobradores' (bet collectors) in the town," Mendoza said.

Several streamers with the words "Walang Tataya" hung in public and private places in the town. During Masses, tables are put outside the town church where people may sign the petition against jueteng.

"We patiently explain to those who ask about the campaign, and most of them sign. Others need no explanation at all," Mendoza said.

He said he was aware that the old habit of betting is difficult to break. Some people ridicule him and the Krusada members.

"They tell us that we cannot stop jueteng. But we will continue the project. We want to involve more people in this campaign," he said.

He said he is optimistic that the campaign can reach the hearts of the residents and that the town can finally break free from the illegal numbers game.

"This is just a start but we can see some effects already. You can hear shouts of 'Walang tataya' already when you walk in public places. We hope that the message will be taken seriously," he said.

In Calapan, Mindoro, Church and government officials who attended a meeting of the Provincial Care Council Forum last week were reminded of their commitment to a five-page agreement entitled "Covenant Sustaining the Anti-Jueteng Drive and Making the Province Illegal Gambling Free," which they signed in July last year.

The July 2005 signatories to the covenant were the governor, vice governor, all board members, the provincial police director, the Philippine Army's 204th Infantry Brigade commanding officer, all mayors, first and second district representatives, the bishop and all police chiefs.

The agreement said jueteng does not cultivate a culture of industry; that the continued operation of this illegal activity will surely destroy the moral fabric of all Mindoreños, and gambling is a vice.

"We are committed to the objectives of this covenant and we pledge to contribute our share in ensuring that Oriental Mindoro remains illegal gambling-free," it further said.

But forum participant Cesar Villan revived debate on the document during last week's meeting after he noticed that the agreement was not being implemented as jueteng allegedly continued to proliferate.

Some participants even expressed surprise over the existence of such a covenant against jueteng.

Just last month, Bishop Warlito Cajandig expressed exasperation over authorities' failure to put a stop to jueteng.

Board member Romeo Infantado, who supports the covenant, said jueteng would not persist if authorities didn't allow it to. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Villagers split by mining talk to reconcile after 10 years

By Melvin Gascon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA—For the first time in more than a decade, residents of a small mining village in upland Kasibu town have agreed to come together to discuss the issues that have divided their community because of a planned mining project there.

The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples on Friday convened villagers opposed to and in favor of a proposed large scale mining project in Barangay Didipio to begin a series of dialogues meant to unite their village.

Victor Calingayan, NCIP provincial director, said that with the dialogues, the villagers would trace the roots of disputes that have escalated since Australasia Philippines Mining Inc. (Apmi) began pushing its planned gold-copper venture there.

"This is the first time that they (the pro- and antimining groups) have come together, talked things over and ate their meals with one another. I am confident that this would be the start of bringing back their unity as a community," he said.

Apmi's $102-million gold-copper project aims to process about 4 million ounces of gold and 1.5 billion ounces of copper deposits in Didipio for 14 years.

The proposed project has, however, failed to start operations due to objections of the local communities, led by the Didipio Village council and the Kasibu town council.

Division

Calingayan said they held the dialogue after they noted the growing division among the tribal people of Didipio, composed of Ifugao, Kalanguya, Ibaloi and Bugkalot settlers.

"This mining issue has placed even family members and relatives on opposite sides. So we're coming in to pacify them, so that the situation would not worsen," he said.

The dialogue was held using the "ammungan," or the traditional method of settling disputes among Cordillera tribes, according to Calingayan.

Under this practice, the villagers sat down together, let out their sentiments and discussed issues by themselves, with government leaders as observers.

The forum was held without the usual protagonists—Apmi officials and environment groups—to allow the tribes to talk freely and avoid outside influence, said Marilou Gilo-Abon, president of Nueva Vizcaya State University, host of the event.

Mending bridges

"It is heartening to see them sit together and tell each other things that they have long wanted to say. I call this activity 'mending bridges'," said Abon, an adopted tribal member.

At the dialogue, about 80 Didipio villagers exchanged views on the issues. The pro-mining group was led by Pastor Efren Bulawan and some residents hired by Apmi as community relations employees.

The antimining group was led by village chair Antonio Dingcog, council member Peter Duyapat, and the officers of the Didipio Earthsavers Movement Association, a non-government organization.

LIFE AFTER A STORM LEONCIO BALBIN/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
A farmer in Candon City, Ilocos Sur seizes the opportunity to prepare his farm for planting as Typhoon "Florita" brought abundant water to farms in the province.

Co-ops doubling as job agencies probed

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE Department of Labor and Employment has begun investigating several cooperatives operating as sub-contracting agencies for private companies in Central Luzon.

"This is an emerging labor arrangement and this is alarming for us," a Dole official here said on Monday. The official declined to be named yet, citing his panel's ongoing discussions with those cooperatives.

According to the official, the new scheme raised a whole lot of new issues: Although registered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), are the cooperatives disguising as employment agencies? Then, who between the Dole and CDA should regulate those cooperatives?

To date, cooperatives are not covered by a Dole order, which regulates labor sub-contracting firms.

Thus, the Dole cannot enforce the standards in wages, benefits, health and safety in these cooperatives, the official said, adding that the arrangement appeared to be a way to circumvent those standards.

"The workers are treated as members of the cooperatives, not employees of the companies," he said.

The arrangement is increasingly being adopted at the Clark Special Economic Zone and industrial centers in Tarlac.

ROUNDUP

PDI correspondent Ford fellow

ILOILO CITY—The International Fellowships Program (IFP) of Ford Foundation has announced 38 fellows-elect from the Philippines with PDI Visayas bureau correspondent Hazel Villa as one of the fellows selected to pursue formal graduate-level study leading to a masters or doctoral degree anywhere in the world. The IFP based in New York is the largest single program ever supported by the Ford Foundation with an investment of $280 million over 12 years through 2012 with fellows selected from countries and territories in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, and Russia, where the Ford Foundation maintains active overseas programs. Villa, 32, belongs to Batch 4-Cohort 2006 and will pursue a degree in Master of Arts in Journalism in September 2007 with Columbia University, New York as her priority school. *PDI Visayas Bureau*

Puerto cops told: Solve slay

HAGEDORN

PUERTO PRINCESA MAYOR Edward Hagedorn yesterday issued a "strong appeal" to police to solve once and for all the murder of former city vice mayor and radio commentator Fernando "Dong" Batul. In a letter to PNP Provincial Director Elpedio de Asis Jr., head of "Task Force Dong Batul" (TFDB), Hagedorn "expressed concern over the slow pace in the complete resolution of the Batul murder case" as he urged the PNP to intensify the manhunt for the remaining suspects in the ambush slaying. "It is not enough that police authorities have arrested the alleged killer SPO1 Aaron Golifardo of the Palawan police force after he was positively identified by several witnesses," Hagedorn said. "No stone should be left unturned so that any and all persons involved ... and the masterminds ... are put behind bars ...," Hagedorn said. Hagedorn said the "well-being of the city and its people demand a proper closure to the case."

Visayan Sea protection urged

ILOILO CITY—Two lawyers have asked the Iloilo provincial board to support efforts to protect the Visayan Sea and the campaign to declare it as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) World Heritage Site for marine biodiversity. Lawyers Antonio Oposa Jr. and Hector Teodosio gave a talk during the July 11 session of the Iloilo provincial board on the importance of conserving the Visayan Sea, which is said to be one of the richest marine eco-region in the world. Oposa said years of destruction reduced the Visayan Sea coral reefs to rubble with the exception of some areas where the locals protect them. The effects of destroying the coral reefs was felt in Carles town whose municipal waters, 15 km off shore, joined the Visayan Sea.

Wrong place for welcome arch

WELCOME
TEKA...

TUBA, Benguet—The welcome arch at the tollgate in Barangay Camp One here recently became an issue among town officials after it was discovered that the structure was erected at the wrong place. It's just a marker that greets travelers once they begin their climb of Kennon Road en route to Baguio City but Mayor Jose Baluda said the marker's location means a lot for the town in terms of political boundary and dues from lands declared for taxation purposes. Baluda asked Benguet Gov. Borromeo Melchor to explain the basis of the provincial government in establishing the welcome arch in its present location. "We want to know what maps or documents the province has so that we can reconcile it with the papers we have since it appears that there is a conflict," he said. The arch appeared to have been erected inside Tuba territory and not on the town's actual boundary, he said. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Visayas wage up ₱10-₱18; Cordillera hike not enough for fare

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—THE REGIONAL TRIpartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB) in Central Visayas has approved a P10 to P18 increase in the daily minimum wage for workers of the four provinces in the region.

The wage increase will take effect on Aug. 1, according to board chair and Department of Labor and Employment regional director Elias Cayanong.

The labor sector, as expected, was unhappy to the new wage hike, describing it as "like being given alms."

Leftist labor groups were demanding wage increases of P75 to P125 a day.

In the Cordillera, the P10 daily wage increase approved by the region's wage board was not even enough for a round-trip fare in jeeps.

The increase is the lowest granted by a wage board: It is equivalent to more than three-fourths of a round-trip jeepney fare in Cordillera.

Current daily minimum wage is P225 for most workers in the so-called BLIST area (Baguio, La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan and Tuba). Farm workers in the BLIST area receive P205 daily minimum wage.

The new wage order called for the integration of the P51 per day cost of living allowance.

In Central Visayas, the business sector described the P10-P18 wage increase as too high.

Already, some establishments are already planning to ask for exemption, claiming their businesses would fold up should they implement the wage increase.

During deliberations held on Saturday and Sunday, the two labor representatives in the board—Marianito Ventura of Trade Union of the Philippines and Allies Services (Tupas) and Jose Boquecosa of Associated Labor Unions (Alu)—opposed the amount offered by the management sector, but they were outvoted, 4-2.

The two government representatives—Trade and Industry regional director Asteria Caberte and National Economic and Development Authority regional director Marlene Rodriguez—voted with management representatives lawyer Hidelito Pascual and businessman Charles Streegan.

SAHOD NG MANGGAGAWA WAG BARATIN!!
SAHOD
PM
INUTIL! BUWAGIN!

MEMBERS of militant labor groups press for their demand for a P125 increase in daily minimum wages in a rally in Manila. PDI PHOTO

"I hope the workers can understand. We did our best but our best was not good enough," Ventura said.

Dennis Derige, of the Partido ng Manggagawa, said the new wage increase only reinforced their resolve to demand for the abolition of the regional wage boards and for Congress to legislate a P125 daily wage increase.

Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) president Francis Monera said they will respect the new wage hike but he asked the wage board to exempt companies that could not afford to give the increase.

Robert Go, regional governor of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), and Carlos Co, former PCCI vice president for the Visayas, both found the P18 increase "too much."

Go warned foreign investors might opt to put their money elsewhere because of Cebu's high cost of labor.

Cayanong, however, said the increases have been carefully considered and were actually "win-win" solutions to the conflicting interests of labor and business sectors.

The wage increases, he added, are the highest given by the wage board in Central Visayas. The daily wage increase granted last year was P15. *With a report from Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

MNLF, MILF urged: Unite

COTABATO CITY—THE WORLD'S Muslim foreign ministers want the two Moro fronts in the Philippines to unite and pursue the interest of Bangsamoro people.

In a resolution adopted by the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in the Republic of Azerbaijan recently, the ministers urged the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) to "unify their ranks and rally their efforts and act jointly for the Bangsamoro Peoples' peace and development."

It was one of the 12 resolutions adopted by the Organization of the Islamic Conference ministerial meeting last month but made public only over the weekend in the Philippines.

The foreign ministers did not discuss the application of the Arroyo administration for an observer status in the Pan-Islamic body during the meeting.

The Philippine government has signed and is implementing a peace deal with the MNLF, while currently negotiating with the MILF. Both sent delegates to the OIC meeting.

Efforts to reach MNLF-MILF reunification have failed in the past.

Quoting Ambassador Sayed Kassem El-Masry, OIC secretary general's advisor for special missions, Maulana Bobby Alonto, MILF peace panel member, said the OIC's concern for the two Moro fronts to unite was urgent and growing.

The OIC has invited the Philippine and MNLF representatives to a high-level tripartite meeting in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia in November to review the OIC-brokered 1996 peace agreement.

It was scheduled this month but moved to November due to the unavailability of then MNLF chair Nur Misuari, who is detained on rebellion charges.

The OIC ministers have unofficially sought Misuari's release for him to join the tripartite meeting.

The OIC earlier postponed the Jeddah tripartite meeting aimed at ironing out kinks in the 1996 peace agreement. It said it wanted to identify and plug any loophole that continued to hinder the successful implementation of the pact, which ended the 20-year MNLF rebellion.

The MNLF has been complaining that the peace agreement did not uplift the lives of its guerrillas and that development was coming in trickles to its communities. *Jeoffrey Maitem and Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

LIFE goes on for a farmer in Barangay Bigaa in Legazpi City as Mayon continues to be restive. EDWIN BACASMAS/PDI PHOTO

Phivolcs cable wires stolen as Mayon blows hot

LEGAZPI CITY—CABLE WIRES OF THE Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology here were again stolen by unidentified men, disrupting communications from and to the Phivolcs office just as it monitored lava flow from Mayon Volcano.

Alex Baloloy, Phivolcs science research analyst, said the wires were stolen between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m., but no one saw the theft. The observatory is at a secluded area at the Ligñon Hill in Barangay Tagas in Daraga town.

The phone line was restored when Digitel Telephone Co. immediately replaced the stolen wires.

"This has happened thrice already since May. What these robbers don't realize is that they are toying with public safety with what they are doing," Baloloy said.

An angry Gov. Fernando Gonzales immediately ordered the provincial police to investigate and come out with positive results in 24 hours.

"Certainly, there was a lapse in law enforcement," Gonzales said.

"Some unscrupulous people don't realize that they are putting lives in danger, including theirs."

Early this year, two seismometers of the Phivolcs were stolen.

One was returned after the robbers heard the Phivolcs' appeal over radio for the return of the instrument because it was needed to monitor ground movements related to volcanic activities.

The Phivolcs has recorded 314 quakes generated by Mayon's activity from a previous 111. This indicates magma rising and burning volcanic rocks coming out, Baloloy said.

Less emission of sulfur dioxide—a sign of clogging inside the volcano—was also noted.

"If the pressure continues to rise and there is clogging within the volcano, it might lead to an explosion," Baloloy said.

The latest Phivolcs bulletin noted "heightened unrest in the volcano which could lead to an explosive eruption" based on an increase in seismic activity and lava flow.

People within the 6-km-radius permanent danger zone (PDZ) and even those beyond, especially in the southeast portion facing the Bonga Gully, should be on a high level of alert, the Phivolcs said.

Phivolcs maintained alert level 3 since Friday night in the 2,474-meter Mayon, which is known for its near-perfect cone and one of the country's 22 active volcanos. *Ephraim Aguilar, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Inaction on land overprice case hit

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—THE COMMISSION ON Human Rights and a group of farmers are complaining of government inaction on the overpricing of land acquired under the land reform program.

The 480-hectare land in Barangay San Jose in Sta. Catalina, Negros Oriental, was offered by its owners, heirs of Belen Locsin, to the government for P12 million.

Instead of paying the owner outright, the Department of Agrarian Reform subjected the land to compulsory acquisition and, in the process, the price of the land went up to P23 million and, finally, to P36 million.

The farmers, who will end up paying the entire amount over 30 years, think they've been had.

The 243 beneficiaries, who are all holding land ownership awards for parcels of land covering the entire estate, sought the help of the Commission on Human Rights two years ago.

CHR Special Investigator Jesus Cañete recommended the filing of criminal and administrative charges against some officials of the Department of Agrarian Reform, Land Bank and other individuals.

In a press conference on Thursday, Cañete said the DAR did not act on his recommendation to suspend the DAR personnel mentioned in his report.

The DAR Adjudication Board has also dismissed the charges against their own men for lack of merit.

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Today at 5pm, Maki Pulido of Reporter's Notebook will talk about "Experiences of a Broadcast Journalist". Catch the host of GMA's "Ang Pagbabago" during the Closing Ceremonies on July 19, 5 p.m.

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Coup probers summon Erap in-law, ex-attaché

From page A1

labor attaché. The INQUIRER attempted but could not reach Parungao for comment.

Señeres said in an interview with the INQUIRER on July 6 that he was one of those who urged Army Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim to withdraw support from Ms Arroyo on Feb. 24 and join antigovernment protesters celebrating the 20th anniversary of Edsa I in a bid to force her to resign over allegations she rigged the 2004 vote.

LOPEZ

The 59-year-old Señeres said business leaders were involved in the Feb. 24 initiative and urged them to come out. He said it was their "patriotic duty" to support Lim, the sacked commander of the elite First Scout Ranger Regiment who has been detained in a maximum security facility in Tanay.

The names of Lopez and Parungao came out in an investigation of rebel financiers reportedly revealed in documents and computer disks seized following the arrest on July 7 of six renegade soldiers in a raid at the Fil-Invest 2 subdivision near Congress, the sources said.

The six soldiers belonging to Magdalo were allegedly plotting to seize Congress and take lawmakers as hostages when Ms Arroyo delivers her State of the Nation Address on July 24. A force of some 10,000 policemen has been mobilized to secure the Batasan complex for Monday's presidential address.

NBI appearances

The three businessmen—Zobel, Cruz and Cojuangco—were named by Señeres as among those involved in Lim's move on Feb. 24 that was aborted when Ms Arroyo declared a state of national emergency.

The proclamation was lifted a week later after the 59-year-old President said she had crushed a leftist and rightist conspiracy to oust her.

"At present, the investigation made by the NBI and the CIDG is for them to explain why their names were being mentioned and it is not accusing them as financiers," said PNP Director General Oscar Calderon.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno described the investigation as "very serious." He told the INQUIRER that the civilian backers of renegade soldiers were "more guilty than the ones they are financing."

No witch-hunting

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez told reporters yesterday that the government was not engaged in "witch-hunting."

Gonzalez has said that the activities of 20 businessmen are being monitored in connection with the investigation. He said these businessmen had provided "direct" aid to plotters, including safe houses and money for anti-Arroyo protests.

"The detail of the money trail is with the CIDG ... as well as records of the movement of funds," he said.

Gonzalez continued to refuse to identify the 20 businessmen, but admitted that some of them were included in the list of names provided by Señeres.

The report on the involvement of Cruz, Gonzalez said, is "scanty." He said Cruz had reportedly invited embattled Brigadier General Lim to his house but that Cruz had denied this.

"His name is still on our radar screen," he said of Cruz, but answered "no comment" when asked whether he was on the list of 20 businessmen.

He said the same was true with Cojuangco. "Nobody is really out of the list," he said.

"This is a spillover of the last election. This is about businessmen taking sides in the 2004 elections," he said, noting that they had bet on the "wrong horse." *With reports from Fe Zamora and Margaux C. Ortiz*

Plotters have no chance against me, says Esperon

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

FOUR DAYS BEFORE HE BEcomes chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon vowed that rebel officers who still plot to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo did not stand a chance against him.

"Let's cross our fingers but I hope they realize that they do not have a chance with me. They will not have a chance," said Esperon, the army chief who once served as Ms Arroyo's Presidential Security Group commander.

"I will batter them," he said after reporters yesterday pointed out his name in Spanish means a battering ram.

Esperon will assume office while the military reels from an aborted coup d'etat by elite Scout Rangers and Marine troops last Feb. 24.

The coup attempt fizzled out after the coup plotters failed to get the support of Gen. Generoso Senga, the outgoing AFP chief of staff.

Esperon warned that he would be "strict on (soldiers) who do not follow the chain of command."

Last week he ordered the transfer of Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and former Scout Rangers operations chief Maj. Jason Aquino, alleged key players in the Feb. 24 coup plot, to the maximum security detention facility Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal.

During his 11-month stint as Army chief, 15 "Magdalo" junior officers who staged the July 2003 Oakwood mutiny turned their backs against their comrades to reaffirm allegiance to the government.

The latest of them is 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan. Esperon said San Juan had provided information on the financiers whom he described as mostly opposition personalities "and surprisingly from business and the left." He said the list also includes "some local officials."

DOJ inaction on ...

From page A1

the mismanagement of public funds. It's about taxpayers' money," Magsaysay said.

"The DOJ is quiet. The Ombudsman is even more quiet, in fact, asleep. And the PAGC is equally, very ominously silent," he added.

Magsaysay said that because of inaction of these government agencies, the Senate and some private groups had taken the initiative to find out the details of Bolante's detention in Los Angeles.

No word from US

Magsaysay said he also still had to hear from the US Embassy on his letter inquiring about Bolante.

"We're waiting, like the rest of the country, for their reply. There must be some very strong reason for the US federal government to detain Mr. Bolante," he said.

Magsaysay said he was considering sending someone to Los Angeles or asking the Department of Foreign Affairs to act but added he would first wait for the US Embassy's formal reply.

"I don't want to appear too over-eager. We can expect the federal government to give us some specifics in their own time," Magsaysay said. "They made the first step. We would not have found out about Bolante until they arrested and detained him," he added.

While saying that he understood the Americans' concern about following privacy rules in immigration cases, Magsaysay pointed out that the Bush administration had also been active in its campaign against corruption.

Political asylum?

"It depends on how they will treat Bolante. Will they give him political asylum? The majority of Filipinos in the US are running after Bolante also. They're angry because his case is the example of mismanagement and corruption in the bureaucracy here in the Philippines," Magsaysay said.

"It's been only 10 days after (Bolante's arrest). Let's see what happens this week because what else can we do? We just have to wait about what the Americans have in mind," he added.

On Sunday, former Solicitor General Frank Chavez said Malacañang and the US government colluded to keep Bolante out of the Manila investigations.

US Embassy spokesperson Matthew Lussenhop declined comment on Chavez's statement.

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor called Chavez's claim "ridiculous." *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Nikko Dizon*

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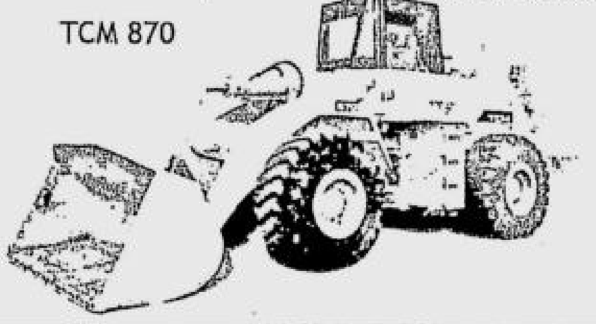

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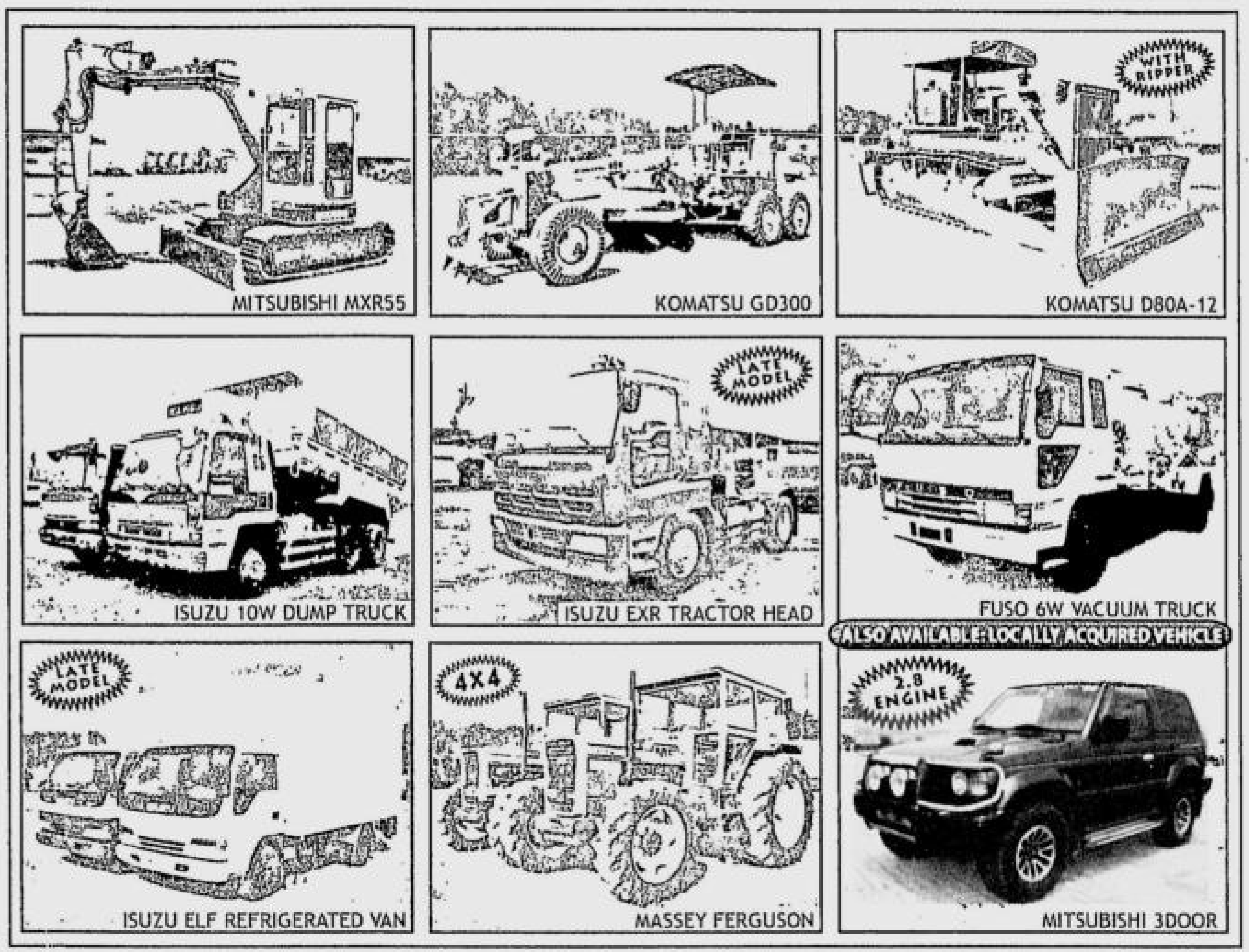

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20 Filipinos kidnapped in Somalia on way home

TWENTY FILIPINO SEAMEN KIDNAPPED BY pirates in Somalia in March have been released and are on their way home, officials said Monday.

The men were freed unharmed on Saturday, and it wasn't immediately clear whether any ransom had been paid, said Roy Cimatu, the government's special envoy to the Middle East.

"I am not privy to their negotiations, but piracy is rampant there. So most likely ransom was paid. Almost all shipping lines pay ransom," Cimatu told The Associated Press.

The men were seized after their oil tanker, the United Arab Emirates-registered MT LIN1, offloaded its cargo at a southern Somali port on March 29, the Philippine Foreign Affairs Department said.

The department said the owners of the ship, the Akron Trade and Transport Co. based in Fujairah, the United Arab Emirates, negotiated for the men's release.

It said the company's representative, Manoj Sabharwal, informed the Philippine Embassy in the United Arab Emirates that all crew members were safe and none required medical attention.

They were expected to arrive in Fujairah next week, the department said.

Piracy in Somalia rose sharply last year, with 35 reported incidents compared to two in 2004, according to the International Maritime Bureau. The bandits target both passenger and cargo vessels for ransom or to loot. *AP*

RP fishermen rescued on Arabian Sea isle

MUMBAI, INDIA—MORE THAN 30 FISHermen swam to safety after their trawler ran aground on an uninhabited island in the Arabian Sea during the monsoon, Indian coastguard officials said Monday.

The 32 fishermen from the Philippines, China, Taiwan, Vietnam and Indonesia abandoned their vessel the Isabel after it started listing dangerously and swam to Suheli Par island, according to a statement.

Another sailor was picked up by helicopter.

They were all later airlifted to Kavaratti island for medical treatment. Kavaratti is the headquarters of the Lakshadweep group of coral islands 250 kilometers off the southwest coast of India.

An inquiry has begun into how the trawler ran aground late Saturday while travelling from Oman to Singapore. *AFP*

After Chinese, DOT now eyeing Indian travelers

By Jerome Aning

AFTER THE CHINESE, THE DEPARTMENT OF Tourism is now setting its eyes on getting a big share of the rising number of Indian travelers.

Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano yesterday said the agency has decided to include the so-called "subcontinent" in its list of potential major tourist sources. India's outbound travelers are projected to reach 15 million by 2014.

Last year, DOT said the number of Indian travelers to the Philippines rose by 15.4 percent. The arrival figure, however, was only 0.30 percent of the seven million Indians who traveled overseas.

Durano noted that while a majority of Indian travelers visited Europe and Southeast Asia, it was only Malaysia and Singapore that garnered a large volume of the Indian tourist traffic.

Some 500,000 Indians visited Singapore last year and spent an average of $1,200 per visit. Indian visitors to Singapore are projected this year to contribute one percent to the island city-state's gross domestic product and create 20,000 jobs.

The Department of Foreign Affairs earlier said it was studying the liberalization of travel paper processing for Indians.

These include measures to simplify, expand and expedite travel visa application, approval and conversion for Indian tourists wanting to sample Filipino natural, cultural, adventure and shopping destinations.

DFA was also studying a proposal to implement a visa-upon-arrival scheme for Indians.

DOT last week hosted the First Philippines-India Tourism Exchange, which was highlighted by a familiarization trip for 15 big travel agencies and market operators from the Indian cities of New Delhi and Mumbai.

DOT brought the travel and marketing experts to Metro Manila, Tagaytay, Pagsanjan, Cebu and Bohol.

Eduardo Jarque Jr., DOT undersecretary for tourism planning and promotions, said the agency was looking for travelers who are city-dwellers, such as young professionals, who often bring their families or come with friends for foreign trips.

"They move from place to place and they stay rather long," Jarque told reporters.

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5 Taiwanese arrested in shabu warehouse raid

12th drug facility uncovered in Parañaque City

CHUNG Hao Tsai, one of the five Taiwanese arrested in Sunday night's raid on a shabu warehouse in Parañaque City. REM ZAMORA

By Jocelyn R. Uy

FIVE TAIWANESE NATIONALS were arrested during a police raid Sunday night on a suspected shabu warehouse in Parañaque City, the 12th illegal drugs facility to be discovered in the city since 2000.

Those arrested were identified as Chung Hao Tsai, 41; Wu Sheng Chin, 43; Wang Chih Chung, 31; Chen Yin-Lu, 54 and Harry Fe, 36.

The raid was carried out by the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) on JPRG International Trading, a seafood export company registered under the name of Jesus Pascual located at 6 Mayuga Compound, Pildera Street in Barangay Tambo.

After a check with City Hall, Supt. Ronald Estilles, Parañaque police chief, said the company was operating illegally. He added that they would also summon the owner of the compound, Milagros Mayuga, for investigation.

The operatives led by Senior Supt. Zoilo Lachica, CIDG Central Luzon chief, started searching the compound at around 10 p.m. Sunday. They found about 200 bottles of chemicals and other equipment used to manufacture shabu, or metamphetamine hydrochloride, which had been

5 TAIWANESE/ A18

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Taguig public market razed

By Jocelyn R. Uy

AN EARLY MORNING FIRE YESTERDAY gutted a public market in Lower Bicutan, Taguig City, destroying P15 million worth of property and injuring four persons, fire officials said.

Vendors and stall owners of the market, located at the corner of M.L. Quezon Street and General Santos Avenue, were just starting their day when they heard a series of explosions coming from a stall selling groceries near the wet market section at around 6:25 a.m.

Witnesses told city fire marshal Senior Insp. Virgilio dela Paz that a vendor accidentally cut an electrical wire while opening his stall's accordion-type door, causing sparks that could have ignited a bundle of fireworks kept in the store.

"Something must have have caused a spark. Then I heard a series of explosions, and later, I saw big flames," Analisa Inguito, 23, a waitress at a nearby burger stand, said.

But Dela Paz told the INQUIRER yesterday that the fireworks could have ignited on its own. "Firecrackers, when kept over a certain period of time, produces heat, causing them to ignite on its own," he said.

The five-hour blaze, which reached Task Force Bravo, gutted the entire market and destroyed roughly 230 stalls and offices, said Edgardo Valencia, market administrator.

Two fire volunteers — Dennis Ajon and Ricky Mislang — and two market vendors identified as Nena Sagarano and Cocoy Dimala were injured. Ajon sustained first degree burns on the face and arms while Mislang injured his foot when he stepped on a protruding nail.

The two vendors suffered abrasions and cuts while trying to save their merchandise.

Mayor Freddie Tinga, meanwhile, was on the scene to oversee the firefighting operations and mobilize the police under Supt. Alfred Corpus against looters and other criminals who could take advantage of the situation.

5 Taiwanese arrested …

From page A17

buried underground.

The bottles, placed on several wooden racks, were found in three areas in the compound.

Scene of the Crime Operatives yesterday identified some of the chemicals as thionyl chloride and pyridine, the main components in producing shabu.

Director Jesus Versoza, CIDG chief, said the unearthed chemicals could produce "millions of pesos worth" of shabu.

"But we still don't know yet how much the chemicals are worth because there could be others hidden in other parts of the warehouse that have yet to be excavated," he explained.

Versoza also believed that the group operating the warehouse could have been planning to put up a drug laboratory based on the chemicals and equipment found at the site.

The equipment included fermenters, dryers, ovens, funnels, a heating mantle and a freezer.

Lachica said the raid was carried out after Judge Aida Estrella Macapagal of the Parañaque Regional Trial Court Branch 195 issued a search warrant against Chung on July 13.

According to the Central Luzon CIDG chief, they applied for a search warrant after learning from intelligence agents that a certain group from Parañaque City was planning to transport chemicals and other ingredients used in manufacturing shabu to Pampanga.

"We placed this warehouse under surveillance for a month after learning about the information," Lachica told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Estilles said seven warehouses had already been discovered in Multinational Village and one each in Marina Subdivision, Bayview Village, Merville Subdivision and Sun Valley Subdivision, all in Parañaque, since 2000.

A BARANGAY official examines suspected drug-making equipment found in the warehouse. Policemen also discovered hundreds of bottles found to contain essential ingredients in the manufacture of illegal drugs. REM ZAMORA

Atienza aide suspended

By Tina G. Santos

MANILA MAYOR LITO ATIENZA YESTERDAY ordered the preventive suspension for 60 days of Noli Sugay, his special assistant, who accused of killing a jeepney driver in Tondo last week.

The suspension, according to the memorandum issued by the mayor, would take effect immediately.

"This is to give an impartial outlook toward the case. Suspending him would erase doubts that I'm taking up the cudgels for him. I want to be fair to everybody—to him and to those accusing him," Atienza told reporters.

Charges were also formally filed yesterday against Sugay at the Department of Justice.

Chief Insp. Alejandro Yanquiling, chief of the MPD homicide division, said Sugay was charged with murder, two counts of attempted homicide and illegal discharge of firearm.

"*Maski sino pa ang sangkot sa anumang masamang gawain, kahit miyembro ng aking pamilya, ay dapat managot sa kasalanang kanyang nagawa* (Anyone involved in any anomaly, even members of my family, should answer for their deeds). We'll let the natural course of justice take its course," he added.

Sugay was tagged by witnesses as the one who shot victim Aries Luriz, 27, of Coral Street, Tondo, over a petty parking dispute.

The mayor recalled that last Friday, when news about Sugay broke out, he immediately advised the latter to present himself to the Manila Police District to air his side.

"*Hangad namin ang katotohanan at kung sino man ang may sala ay magdurusa sa kulungan* (We want the truth and anyone who committed a crime should suffer in jail)," Atienza said as he called on other witnesses to come forward and shed light on the case.

METROBRIEFS

Judge gets 6 years

FOR SUBJECTING two girls, aged 13 and 16, to cruelty and abuse more than a decade ago, a Caloocan City judge will be spending up to six years behind bars. A Quezon City court yesterday found Caloocan City Branch 121 Judge Adoracion Angeles guilty of two counts of child abuse for beating up her godchild and a girl who had served as her housemaid. Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 100 Judge Marie Christine Jacob sentenced Angeles to a maximum jail term of six years, eight months and one day. The court found sufficient evidence that Angeles had maltreated Proclyn Pacay, then 13, and Nancy Gaspar, then 16, between Jan. 19, 1995 and March 2, 1995, in her Quezon City residence. Pacay was a Camarines Sur native who had been brought to Manila to serve as Angeles' housemaid, while Gaspar was the judge's godchild who had been living with her since she was 10. In March 1992, the two complained to police about the physical and psychological abuse they suffered at the hands of the accused, court records showed. They recounted several instances in which Angeles kicked them in the head, slapped and punching them, and subjected them to verbal abuse. Angeles told the court that the accusations were lies. But Jacob gave greater credence to the victims' accounts. *DJ Yap*

Let us in!

ENVIRONMENTAL advocates that developed the Arroceros Forest Park in Manila are becoming increasingly worried about the condition of the trees in the park which they planted more than 10 years ago. Regina Paterno, president of Winner Foundation, said security officers refused entry to their members when they went to the park last Sunday. "The guard said members of Winner Foundation are not allowed inside, apparently upon the orders of their higher-ups," Paterno told the INQUIRER. The foundation, which was declared the park caretaker under a memorandum of agreement signed several years ago, has been at loggerheads with the Manila City government over the building of a school building in the compound. *Tina G. Santos*

Comedian sues restaurant

COMEDIAN and impersonator Christopher Borja, popularly known as Inday Garutay, filed civil charges against the Aruba Bar and Restaurant in Pasig City yesterday and asked for at least P660,000 in damages. Borja filed the suit after he was asked to leave the restaurant on July 4 for wearing "inappropriate clothing"— dangling earrings, a bell-sleeved beige blouse and a pair of black pants, secured by a big silver belt. "I am filing the case because I don't want this to happen again. It is not right that we are discriminated against just because we are crossdressers," Borja told reporters at the Pasig City Regional Trial Court Office. Sought for comment, a purchasing officer of the bar, told the INQUIRER that it was their rule not to allow crossdressers inside the premises. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Call for assistance

THE FAMILY of 1-year-old Enrique Bello Jr. of Cubao, Quezon City needs your help. The child, who was diagnosed with severe pneumonia, passed away last July 13. His family is appealing to kindhearted individuals who can help them pay the child's hospital and funeral expenses. Before his death, Enrique was confined for several weeks in the intensive care unit of the Quirino Memorial Medical Center in Project 4, Quezon City. His medicine alone cost the family over P5,500 a day. Those who would like to help the family can call 0915-9283658 or deposit their donations at any Metrobank branch under account number 3-320-150065.

MRT offers free rides for PWDs until July 23

By Riza T. Olchondra

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs) can ride for free this week on the Metro Rail Transit as part of the celebration of National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation (NDPR) Week.

The free rides can be availed of up to Sunday, July 23, from 7 to 9 a.m. and between 5 to 7 p.m. Transportation Assistant Secretary Roberto T. Lastimoso said the additional benefit for PWDs was aimed at encouraging them to join the activities lined up for the celebration of NDPR Week.

To avail of the free rides, PWDs should present their transportation discount fare ID card or any ID from a PWD-affiliated agency at any MRT station. The transportation discount fare ID card is issued by the National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons which is located at the SRA main building at North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

PWDs without a valid ID card, however, can still ride for free on the MRT if they can show proof of their disability.

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Item No.	Description of Events/ Date Needed/ No. of pax/ Enduser	No. of pax	Location/ Within the Area of:	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) in Philippine Peso	Bid Submission Deadline/ Opening of Bids	Prebid Conference
1	Seminar Workshop on Public Accountability & Graft Prevention / Sept. 5-7, 2006/SDD-HRDS	100	Rizal Province	Php 440,000.00	On or before: **10:00 a.m., August 8, 2006**, at the Bulwagan Ng Karunungan, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City	**10:00 a.m. July 25, 2006** at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, DepED Complex, Pasig City
2	Basic English Training for Non-Teaching Personnel/ Sept. 26-28, 2006/ SDD-HRDS	100	Butuan City	Php 420,000.00		
3	Training on GAD Program on Prevention of Violence Against Women and Children/ Sept. 26-29, 2006/ SDD-HRDS	115	Tagaytay City	Php 690,000.00		
4	Training on GAD program on Prevention of Violence Against Women and Children/ Oct. 24-27, 2006/ SDD-HRDS	115	Davao City	Php 690,000.00		
5	Training on GAD Program on Monitoring and Evaluation/ Nov. 14-16, 2006/ SDD-HRDS	115	Tagaytay City	Php 552,000.00		
6	Training on GAD Program on Monitoring and Evaluation/ Nov. 28-30, 2006/ SDD-HRDS	115	Tacloban City	Php 552,000.00		
7	Training on GAD Program on Monitoring and Evaluation/ Dec. 12-14, 2006/ SDD-HRDS	124	Davao City	Php 595,000.00		
8	Training on Development Counseling Skills for Guidance Counselors and Coordinators/ Nov. 7-9, 2006/ SDD-HRD	115	Davao City	Php 506,000.00		
9	Training on Development Counseling Skills for Guidance Counselors and Coordinators/ Nov. 21-23, 2006/ SDD-HRDS	115	Zamboanga City	Php 460,000.00		
			Total	Php 4,905,000.00		

Bids received that exceed the ABC per item shall be rejected. Bids in excess of Php 1,200.00/pax/day shall also be rejected. A bidder may bid for one or more items.

The Bidding Documents shall be available at the BAC Secretariat, Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, starting **July 11 to July 25, 2006** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **PhP 500.00** in cash to the DepED Cashier.

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with procedures under the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.org or call DepED-PS at telephone no. 636-65-43 or fax no. 636-65-42.

DepED-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) ATTY. CAMILO MIGUEL M. MONTESA
Assistant Secretary and BAC Chairperson

(PDI – July 11 & 18, 2006)

It's better Bolante is tried in the US

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

IN SATURDAY'S COLUMN, I SAID there was more to the cancellation of the US visa of former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante than what was reported.

The US immigration office held Bolante in custody after the US Embassy in Manila recommended the cancellation of his visa.

Now, it seems my speculation is coming true.

I got word that some Filipino-Americans are filing a suit against Bolante in the US to compel him to reveal how he disbursed the P728 million supposedly intended for farmers.

My source, who's knowledgeable about the workings of the US judicial system, said the Fil-Ams think that part of the P728 million could have come from US aid or loans to the Philippines.

The suit is called "discovery proceedings."

Bolante could be summoned by a federal court to appear and be cross-examined.

If the former agriculture underscretary is found to have illegally disbursed the P728 million, he would be charged in a federal court.

The persons who could have conspired with him would also face similar charges.

Some people in the Macapagal-Arroyo administration must be having sleepless nights.

* * *

I beg to disagree with my friend and *compadre*, former Solicitor General Frank Chavez, that the US government and Malacañang conspired to keep Bolante in the US so he would be out of reach of the Senate and our courts.

The Senate is investigating the alleged P728-million fertilizer fund scam that the former solicitor general exposed.

Why would the US protect a suspected thief?

Bolante cannot be given asylum even if he asks for it.

Why? He is not running away from political, religious or ethnic persecution.

What he's running away from is an accusation of a heinous crime that the US will never countenance.

* * *

A political analyst I talked with said that Bolante was arrested in the US so he could be brought back to the Philippines to face a charge that could be filed against him in connection with the alleged fertilizer scam.

But that presupposes that some Filipino-Americans have not filed a suit against the former agriculture undersecretary in a federal court.

The US proceedings—if a suit had been filed in the US—would have priority over a criminal case that could be filed against Bolante in the country.

If you ask some people, it would be better for Bolante to be tried in the US than here.

In the United States, he cannot bribe the judges.

Neither can he use the influence of his friends in the Arroyo administration.

* * *

"Nobody can *hawak* me."

With that classic statement coming from outgoing Armed Forces Chief of Staff Generoso Senga, former President Erap no longer holds the distinction of speaking "carabao" English.

***Bakit kasi di na lang niya tinagalog* (Why didn't he speak in Tagalog (Filipino) instead?)**

* * *

Senga's English is one reason our educational system should revert to English as the medium of instruction.

Our people need to be proficient in English since a big part of the population works overseas.

Foreign employers won't be able to understand our overseas workers if they speak the language the way Senga does.

DID YOU KNOW

DID YOU know that Quezon City was once the country's capital?

Quezon City was declared the capital of the Philippines in 1948 by Republic Act 333, taking away the title from Manila, which had been the capital since 1571. Former President Ferdinand Marcos, however, reestablished Manila in 1976 as the Philippine capital and the permanent seat of the national government. In Presidential Decree 940, Marcos explained, "Manila has always been, to the Filipino people and in the eyes of the world, the premier city of the Philippines, it being the center of trade, commerce, education and culture." *Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research*

UN to push hard for Lebanon stabilization force

ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA—United Nations Security Council members will on Monday start hammering out a detailed agreement on deploying a multilateral security force to Lebanon, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said.

World leaders at a Group of Eight summit in St. Petersburg had raised the possibility of a force at the weekend. But Annan, after talks with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, said he would push ahead with the plan as a matter of urgency.

Blair and Annan told reporters they will take discussions forward on Monday with Security Council members. With China's President Hu Jintao in St. Petersburg as a guest, all five permanent members are present at the summit.

"I intend to pursue this with the other leaders, as I have with the prime minister (Blair), later on," Annan said.

"Several of the countries here are also key members of the Security Council and I expect them to work with us to get the package that will push this forward."

Annan said his officials in the region should report back to him with recommendations by the end of this week.

ANNAN at a session of G8 leaders July 17. AFP

Once the Security Council had agreed on the force, it would need a contingent of well-equipped troops ready to deploy to the region quickly, he added.

Israeli bombing killed 17 people in Lebanon on Sunday in an offensive to punish militant group Hezbollah for rocket attacks on targets inside Israel and the seizure of Israeli soldiers.

In a declaration on Sunday, G8 leaders said they would "welcome an examination" of a multilateral security force. But Blair went further, saying the force was essential.

"The only way in my view we are going to get a cessation of hostilities is if we have the deployment of an international force into that area that can stop the bombardment coming over into Israel and therefore gives Israel the reason to stop its attacks on Hezbollah," he said.

US Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns said Washington wanted the UN to "look seriously" at options for boosting an international monitoring force on the Israeli-Lebanese border. A small UN force has been in the area for many years.

All G8 leaders have acknowledged Israel's right to self-defense. But US President George W. Bush has pushed this harder than his counterparts and been more explicit in blaming Hezbollah, and its backers Syria and Iran, for the violence.

Burns said a beefed-up multilateral force could help convince Israel to halt its offensive.

"Unless Israel knows that Hezbollah has been pushed back, Israel is going to have no confidence that Hezbollah won't have the capacity to do what it's doing in the future, what it's been doing over the last couple of weeks," he said.

Bush said in St. Petersburg on Monday he was "most pleased" with the G8 statement on the Middle East crisis. The statement blamed extremists for the violence and said Israel was entitled to defend itself, but must exercise restraint. *Reuters*

Canada mourns 7 nationals killed in raid on Lebanon

MONTREAL—CANADIAN FOREIGN Minister Peter MacKay expressed condolences late Sunday for the deaths of seven Canadian citizens killed during an Israeli air strike in southern Lebanon.

"On behalf of the government of Canada, I extend my deepest sympathies to the loved ones of those killed and wounded," MacKay said in a statement.

MacKay said the Canadian Embassy in Beirut had been in direct contact with the family whose home in southern Lebanon was hit by shelling Sunday, and officials in Ottawa had been in direct contact with immediate family members living in Canada.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and loved ones in this time of need, and we will make every effort to assist them at this difficult time," the foreign minister said.

According to Lebanese police, five of the dead were a Lebanese-Canadian couple and their three children, killed in an Israeli air strike near the Israel-Lebanon border.

The family had arrived in Lebanon 10 days ago for a vacation in the village of their birthplace.

The foreign minister's statement also spoke of three Canadians injured in the attack. Radio Canada reported that four children were among six Lebanese-Canadians injured in the attack.

Amid continuing Israeli air raids and Hezbollah rocket attacks on Israel, Ottawa is planning an evacuation of Canadians from Lebanon, MacKay earlier told CTV television.

"These ships have been secured, we'll be getting them to a coastal position off Lebanon. We're also working to secure the safe passage of these vessels, and that includes seeking assurance from all the parties there," he said. *AFP*

Thousands rally for Mexico vote recount

MEXICO CITY—FOR THE SECOND time in eight days, thousands of supporters of the leftist presidential candidate, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, filled this city's historic central plaza to demonstrate their support for his demand for a vote-by-vote recount of Mexico's disputed July 2 election.

The crowds at this rally—several hundred thousand—were considerably larger than the last and seemed to indicate that the movement started by the embattled former mayor of Mexico City remained strong.

Lopez Obrador told the throngs of people roaring his name that a recount was not too much to ask to resolve the political crisis that has gripped the nation since election officials declared his conservative opponent, Felipe Calderon, the apparent winner by less than one percent of 41 million ballots cast.

That victory has yet to be certified by the Federal Electoral Tribunal as it weighs a legal challenge from Lopez Obrador. In the meantime, he seems determined to keep up pressure on the tribunal to grant his demand for a recount.

Lopez Obrador and supporters who helped organize the rally urged his followers to conduct nonviolent acts of civil disobedience, including sit-ins at the 300 district election offices across the country.

HUNDREDS of thousands gather in support of Mexico presidential candidate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador to demand a ballot by ballot recount of the July 2 elections in Mexico City, July 16. AP

Calderon and his supporters say that their victory is legitimate and that a recount would do more harm than good to an electoral system that was meticulously engineered to move Mexico toward democracy after decades of autocratic, one-party rule.

Arturo Sarukhan, a leading adviser to Calderon, said that his candidate would accept a recount if one is ordered by the electoral tribunal. But he said his candidate does not believe a recount is legally necessary, since the votes were already counted on election night by citizens recruited at random to be poll workers.

Lopez Obrador charged that the voting was riddled with mistakes and rigged against him by President Vicente Fox, who openly supported Calderon, who is from the same party. *NYT*

WORLDBRIEFS

Israel bombs Palestinian foreign ministry

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip—Israel on Monday bombed the empty Palestinian Foreign Ministry building for the second time in less than a week, calling it a warning to the ruling Hamas and keeping up pressure as it searched for a kidnapped soldier. Israel launched an offensive into the Gaza Strip on June 28 after Hamas-linked militants carried out a cross-border attack on a military outpost, killing two soldiers and capturing one other. As part of its campaign to release the soldier and halt rocket fire on southern Israel, the army has bombed government buildings and targeted militants. Last week, Lebanon's Hezbollah guerrillas joined the fray, attacking a military patrol in northern Israel, killing eight soldiers and capturing two others. Since then, Israel has been fighting a two-front campaign, continuing its Gaza offensive while relentlessly attacking Hezbollah, which has also fired hundreds of rockets at Israel. In ongoing fighting in the West Bank, militants killed an Israeli soldier and wounded six others on Monday when they set off a bomb near the troops, who were carrying out an arrest raid in Nablus. Hundreds of Palestinians gathered at the scene in Nablus celebrating the attack, cheering over the soldier's remains. In the latest bombing of the Palestinian Foreign Ministry, a wing of the building collapsed and dozens of houses nearby were damaged, injuring nine people. *AP*

Diabetes-Alzheimer's link

SEVERAL new studies suggest that diabetes increases the risk of Alzheimer's disease, adding to a store of evidence that links the disorders. The studies involve only Type 2 diabetes, the most common kind, which is usually related to obesity. The connection raises an ominous prospect: that increases in diabetes, a major concern in the United States and worldwide, may worsen the rising toll from Alzheimer's. But some of the studies also hint that measures to prevent or control diabetes may lower the dementia risk, and that certain diabetes drugs should be tested to find whether they can help Alzheimer's patients, even those without diabetes. Current treatments for Alzheimer's can provide only a modest improvement in symptoms and cannot stop the progression of the disease. The new findings were presented Sunday by the Alzheimer's Association at a six-day conference in Madrid, Spain, attended by 5,000 researchers from around the world. One of the new studies found that even people who had borderline diabetes were 70 percent more likely than those with normal blood sugar to develop Alzheimer's. *NYT*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Tuesday, July 18, 2006

Kaya nila... Ikaw kaya, kaya mo?
ULTIMATE GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS
Mamayang Gabi Na! 8:30 PM
ABC Tayo!
ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5				National Geographic	V League				Sentro	World's Most Amazing Videos	TNA Impact		Ultimate Guinness World Records		Big News	ALI			
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Little Amy	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Calla Lily	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Bituing Walang Ningning	Sa Piling Mo	My Girl	A Love To Kill	Bandila	Nagmamahal, Kapamilya		
AXN		Lost (Season II)		House		The Ultimate Fighter		Amazon		Andromeda (Season V)		Ripley's Believe It or Not		Alias (Season IV)		CSI: NY (Season 2)		Rescue Me (Season 1)	
Cartoon Network	Pixie And Dixie	All New Popeye Show	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Codename: Kids Next Door	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	The Simpsons	Samurai Jack	PokeMon	Dice	Gundam Seed Destiny	The Simpsons	Teen Titans	Justice League	The Batman	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock
Cinema One		Underage				Mula Sa Puso				Uno				Oreng Salandsia				Walang Iwanan Peksman	
Cinemax	Fast Getaway			Tripwire (3:55 PM)			The Last Samurai					Battlestar Galactica Mission 3			Batman (9:25 PM)				Just Cause
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	CNN Connects: The New South Africa	CNN Connects: The New South Africa	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Body Of Evidence	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Surface		Vegas CSU	E-Ring	Law & Order: Criminal Content	
Discovery Channel		I Shouldn't Be Alive		Rides 2		Zero Hour 2		Unsolved History		Wild Discovery		Hour Asia		Nostradamus		Perfect Disaster		True Crime Scene	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-Bikative Bunny	Mickey Mouseworks	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Wicked Science Yr 2	Phil Of The Future	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN			Tour De France 2006	Winter X Games X Day 2 Pt1 Of Aspen Co USA				Extreme Programming Sports Mania		Atlantic Coast Conf. Basketball: Duke Vs North Carolina		Germany Tonight		Sportscenter Asia	Pool: Snooker Premier Snooker League 05				Sportscenter Asia
ETC	Insider Weekend	Project Runway		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		One Tree Hill 3		The O.C.3		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Blowout 2		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	Super Saints	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	ABCatholic	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Mirror Of The Soul	Lord, Have Mercy	Behold the Man: Spirituality for Men	The Journey Home Encore		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	The Good Code The Natural Law	Cenacle Of Divine Mercy	Octavia Dies	Web Of Faith	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Ang Pantabago (3:45 PM)		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:10 PM)		Majika		I Luv NY (8:50 PM)	Love Of The Condor Heroes	Bahay Mo Ba 'To			Saksi
Hallmark Channel		Strong Medicine (3:15 PM)		Micro Mini Kids (4:05 PM)				McLeod's Daughters		Strong Medicine				Judging Amy		Ordinary Miracles			Judging Amy (11:45PM)
HBO			Murphy's Romance				Home Fries			Timeline (7:10 PM)				Carnivale 23: Outside New Canaan		Carnivale 24: New Canaan, CA (9:55 PM)	Along Came Polly (10:45PM)		
Hero TV	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Super Gals	Sorcerer Hunter	Soul Hunters	Lost Universe	Beyblade G-Revolution	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Naruto	Mirmo de Pon	Inuyasha	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Super Gals	Sorcerer Hunter
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Serbis On The Go	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Global Family Series		Japan Video Topics/ Aims		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics/ Aims	Global Family Series	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Late Show David Letterman		Raw				The Batman	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Mad TV		That 70s Show	Arrested Development	The Late Show David Letterman		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Comedy Central Presents	South Park	The Man Show
Lifestyle Network	Designer Remix	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	At Home With	Emeril Live		Boy Meets Grill	E! News Weekend		Look For Less	Martha		Napa Style	Sheila Bridges Designer Living	Guess Who's Coming To Decor	
MTV Philippines		Pimp My Ride	Cribs	Sessions: Siti	MTV Hits					Get Spotted	Handpicked: Siti	TRL		Pimp My Ride	Cribs	MTV Hits	Sessions: Siti	MTV Live: Keane in Spain	Jams
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX Versions	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Top Of The Pops	Radio MYX	MYX News	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXILOG
National Geographic	Wildlife Diary	National Geographic Specials		Marine Machines		Hunter Hunted: Kodiak Attack		Top 5 - Amazing Moments	Top 5 - Amazing Moments	WOW! Be the Creature		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Air Crash Investigation, Kid in the Cockpit		Hunter Hunted: Stalked At Sea	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Alsp.			Dyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Teledyaryo W/ Rey Langit & Angelique Lazo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Net 25	INC Chronicles	Convergence	Auto Motor Sport	The Planet	Tomorrow Today	Ang Tamang Daan		News Beat (Live)		Openline (Live)	Gabay Sa Kalusugan	INC Chronicles E	INC Chronicles F	Ang Pagbubunyag		World Report	Kapatid Sa Hanapbuhay	DWTV Journal News	Auto Motor
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	SpongeBob SquarePants/ Right On Top	The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron/ My Life As A Teenage Robot	Nick Kicks/ All Grown Up		The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	Romeo	Naturally Sadie	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Boy Buluran				Sumpa Ng Pag-ibig				Sarah The Sweet Princess				Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga				Buko Pandan
Qtv		Shaman King	Outlaw Star	Galaxy Angel	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Phoenix	Irene	Fireworks	Damo	Project 11	Na-Scam Ka Na Ba?		News On Q	Sana'y Muling Makapiling		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Aksyon News		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	North Shore		Australia's Next Top Model		Jake in Progress	Sex & the City	Newswatch Now	Tuesday Night Treat		
SBN 21								Sony Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Sony Music Video		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports						Volleyball: China Volley Masters match 1				Philippine Bowling Congress		2006 JONES CUP				Solar Sports Desk	NBA Access	2006 Uber Cup Finals	
Sports Plus				Golf Today	Inside the PGA	World Game		New England 300 Highlights		Rookie Manual	Nopi Tunervision	Ultimate Fighting Champ Ultimate Knockouts III				World Poker Tour Hollywood Home			
Star Movies				Killer Bash			Lover Boy (5:45 PM)				In Enemy Hands (7:20 PM)			Black Hawk Down					Dirty Deeds (11:20PM)
Star World	Frasier/ Becker (Series 5)	The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Monk		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	Life As We Know It		The O.C./ One Tree Hill (Series 2)		Kevin Hill		Seinfeld	Life As We Know It
Studio 23	Bewitched	Naruto				Batman Beyond	Monkey Typhoon	Spirits	Blog	Wazzup Wazzup	Andromeda		Smallville (8:20 PM)	Gilmore Girls (9:10 PM)		News Central	Oprah		Men's Room

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Japan readies new sanctions as Nokor rejects UN demand

TOKYO—JAPAN IS CONSIDERING FURTHER ECONOMIC SANCtions against North Korea following Pyongyang's rejection of a UN Security Council resolution demanding the suspension of its ballistic missile program, reports said Monday.

The Security Council unanimously adopted Saturday the resolution condemning Pyongyang's missile launches and demanding the suspension of its ballistic missile program, but the isolated communist state rejected the "brigandish" resolution and vowed to bolster its defenses.

Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Shinzo Abe ordered officials Sunday to examine further sanctions following Pyongyang's rejection of the UN resolution, Jiji Press and the Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper reported.

Further sanctions could include suspension of cash remittances to impoverished North Korea, which depends on financial help from ethnic Koreans in Japan, a ban on bilateral trade and freezes on North Korean assets in Japan, reports said.

The UN Security Council resolution requires all member states to prevent the procurement of missiles or missile related items, materials, goods and technology from North Korea and the transfer of any financial resources in relation to North Korea's missile or weapons of mass destruction programs.

Based on the resolution, Japan may call for other countries to join hands in implementing effective financial sanctions to deter remittances through a third country, Jiji Press said.

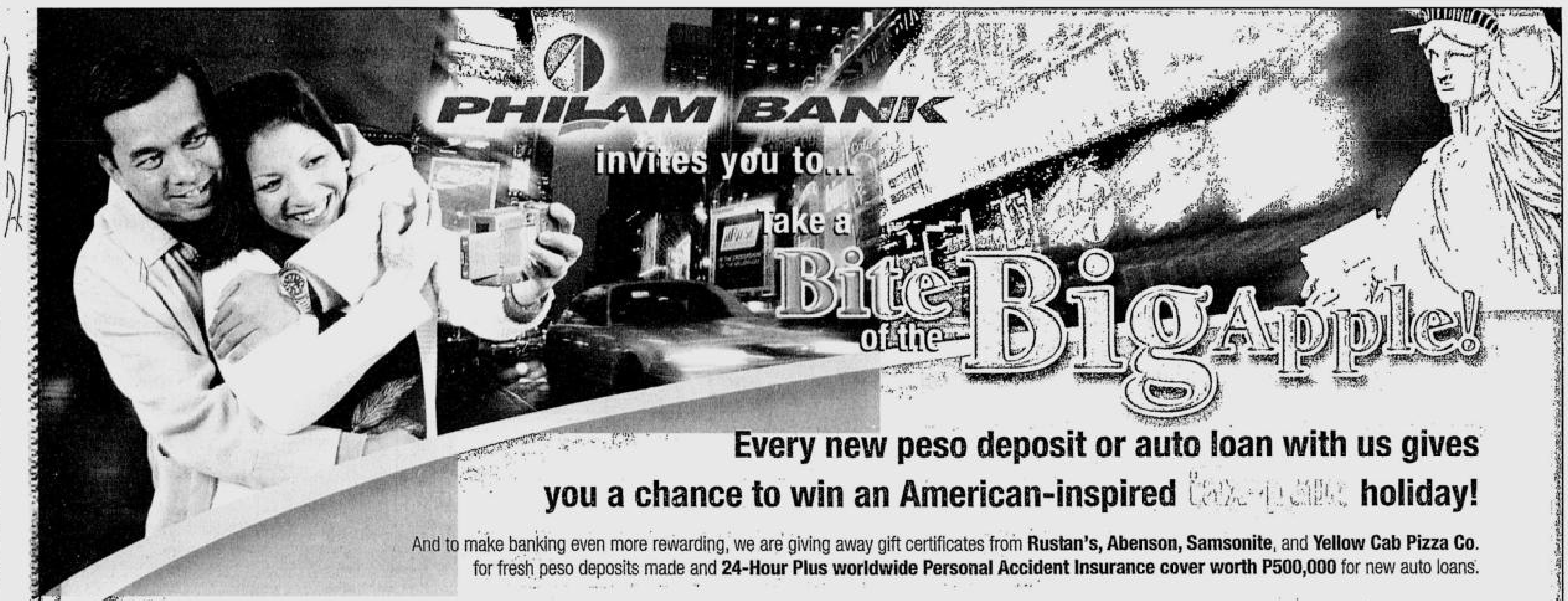
Japan was quick to impose sanctions, although in a reserved manner, after Pyongyang launched seven ballistic missiles including a long-range Taepodong-2 which theoretically could reach US soil.

ABE REUTERS

Tokyo has banned a major ferry link, visits by diplomats and charter flights from North Korea following the missile launches.

Japan is one of the strongest critics of North Korea. It is particularly sensitive as Pyongyang's previous test of a long-range missile, the Taepodong-1, flew over Japan into the Pacific Ocean in 1998.

North Korea is also widely reviled here for its past kidnappings of Japanese civilians to train its spies, a row that has prevented the two countries from establishing diplomatic relations. *AFP*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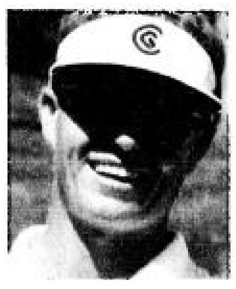


WHAT'S INSIDE

Senden snares 1st PGA crown after 139 starts /A24

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

SPORTS

Editor
Teddyvic S. Melendres

Text us your feedback: in sprt name/age/city/messag (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

NBA Madness features versatile Frye /A24

Red-hot Knights repulse Altas

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE LAW OF AVERAGES ALmost caught up with Letran yesterday. Well, at least in the first half.

STANDINGS	W	L
Letran	5	0
San Beda	4	1
PCU	4	2
Mapua	3	2
S. Sebastian	2	4
Perpetual	2	4
Jose Rizal	1	4
St. Benilde	1	5

GAMES TOMORROW
(*Ninoy Aquino Stadium*)
12 noon—JRU vs San Sebastian (Jrs/Srs)
2 p.m.—Perpetual vs San Beda (Srs/Jrs)

The defending champion Knights struggled at the outset before making key adjustments in the final two quarters to trounce Perpetual, 60-48, and keep their record immaculate in the NCAA men's basketball at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Boyet Bautista was stumped by the Altas' trapping defense, throwing the Knights' usually fluid game into disarray and limiting them to just seven points in the first quarter. The misery continued till the second canto, which saw Letran trail by as many as 12 points, 24-12, on a jumper by Fritz Bauzon.

"We noticed that they double-team Boyet right on the first dribble," said Letran coach Louie Alas. "The double was there right away and he couldn't find room to pass the ball."

Alas' immediate prescription was to anticipate a double on top of the key once the double-team sets in. But the veteran point-guard often challenged the defense thrown at him.

"The rest of the team got confused because Boyet wasn't moving the ball well," said Alas.

The Knights learned fast, however, and foiled the help defense with speedier ball movement and superb shooting (23-of-57) to register their fifth straight win.

The Altas, who fell to 2-4, didn't have a counter-move up their sleeves and toiled the rest of the way with key gunner Khiel Misa nursing four fouls just before halftime.

Fernandez topscored with 14 points and added seven rebounds and two steals, while Aaron Aban made 12 points and 12 rebounds.

In the other seniors game, Jose Rizal U nailed its first victory at the expense of host St. Benilde, 72-70. It was the Heavy Bombers' first win after losing their first four games.

In junior play, Richard Mojado scored 22 of his game-high 27 points in the second half as the Perpetual Help Altalettes bested the Letran Squires, 80-72, for their first win in five games. The Knights absorbed their fifth straight loss.

The Light Bombers dealt the Greenies their third straight loss with a 91-75 victory in the other juniors game. It was the fourth win against one loss for JRU.

The varsity scores:

Second Game

LETRAN 60—Bautista 14, Aban 12, Mondragon 8, Daa 7, Balneg 6, Quinday 5, Jazul 5, Faundo 2, Melegrito 1, Realista 0, Guevarra 0, Dangcal 0.

PERPETUAL 48—Bauzon 12, Misa 11, Reyes 6, Joe 6, Manuel 5, Racho 4, Kong 4, Mendoza 0, Manalang 0, Lee 0.

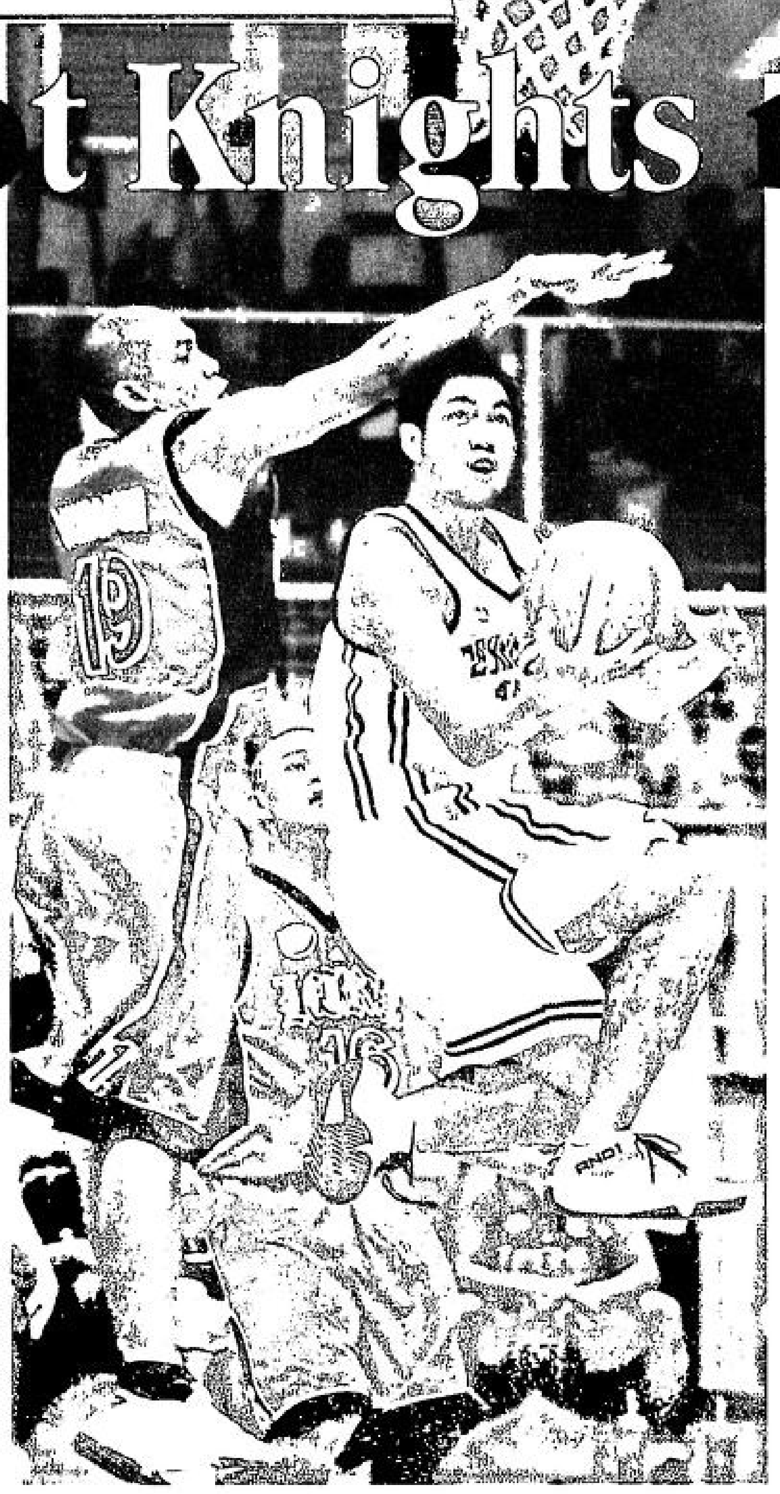
Quarters: 7-18, 27-28, 44-34, 60-48

Fourth Game

JOSE RIZAL U 72—Dedicatoria 22, Wilson 16, Sena 10, Nocom 8, Pradas 6, Cagoco 4, Se 4, Hayes 2, Fenequito 0, Bucao 0, Montemayor 0, Echane 0, Calilan 0, Pria 0.

ST. BENILDE 70—Urra Jr. 21, Robles 13, Johnston 13, Layug 7, Sevilla 5, Aldover 4, David 4, Manlapaz 2, Libunao 1, Manding 0, Devaras 0, Cadiz 0, Urra III 0.

Quarters: 16-15, 42-28, 60-47, 72-70



PERPETUAL'S Josef Racho uncorks a reverse lay-up against Letran's Hafer Mondragon in their game yesterday. RYAN LIM

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RUBILLAR

Rubillar goes for interim crown

FILIPINO JUANITO Rubillar, ranked No. 1 light flyweight by the World Boxing Council, takes on No. 2 Wandee Singwancha today for the organization's interim title in a 12-round showdown in Bangkapi district, Bangkok, Thailand.

The WBC earlier ordered the Rubillar-Singwancha clash to determine who between them will next challenge WBC light flyweight champ Brian Viloria, should the Fil-American successfully defend his title on Aug. 10 against Mexican Omar Nino Romero.

The 29-year-old Rubillar is tabbed a slight favorite over Singwancha owing to the quality of his past opponents and the fact that the Thai is described by the press as "someone who can't crack an egg."

The 26-year-old Singwancha, however, enjoys the hometown advantage and fans should expect a competitive fight.

Referee for today's tussle is Malcolm Bulner of Australia, while judges are Brad Vocale of Australia, Japan's Kanaya Takeaki and Jae Bong Kim of Korea.

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RP-Air21 five battles lowly Singaporeans

HONG KONG—DESPITE ITS BILLING AS ONE of the early favorites, the RP-Air21 squad is leaving nothing to chance as it opens up against Singapore Tuesday in the 15th Eastcolight Super Kung Sheung Cup international invitational basketball tournament at the Hong Kong Coliseum.

Led by team captain Wynne Arboleda and brothers Yancy and Ranidel de Ocampo, the 11-man RP-Air21 team arrived in this cosmopolitan Chinese territory early Monday afternoon and immediately plunged into a serious workout.

Four of the RP-Air21 players—K.G. Canaleta, Ronald Tubid and the De Ocampo brothers—came directly from Taipei, where the San Miguel Beer-supported RP team vied in the 2006 Wiliam Jones Cup basketball tournament.

The Filipinos, whose stint here is sponsored by Burlington, Accel and Federal Tyres, take the floor at 2 p.m. against a Singapore national team that is expected to wilt early.

The Filipinos get their first taste of the tough competition when they take on a Japanese squad backstopped by several national players at 3 p.m. on Wednesday.

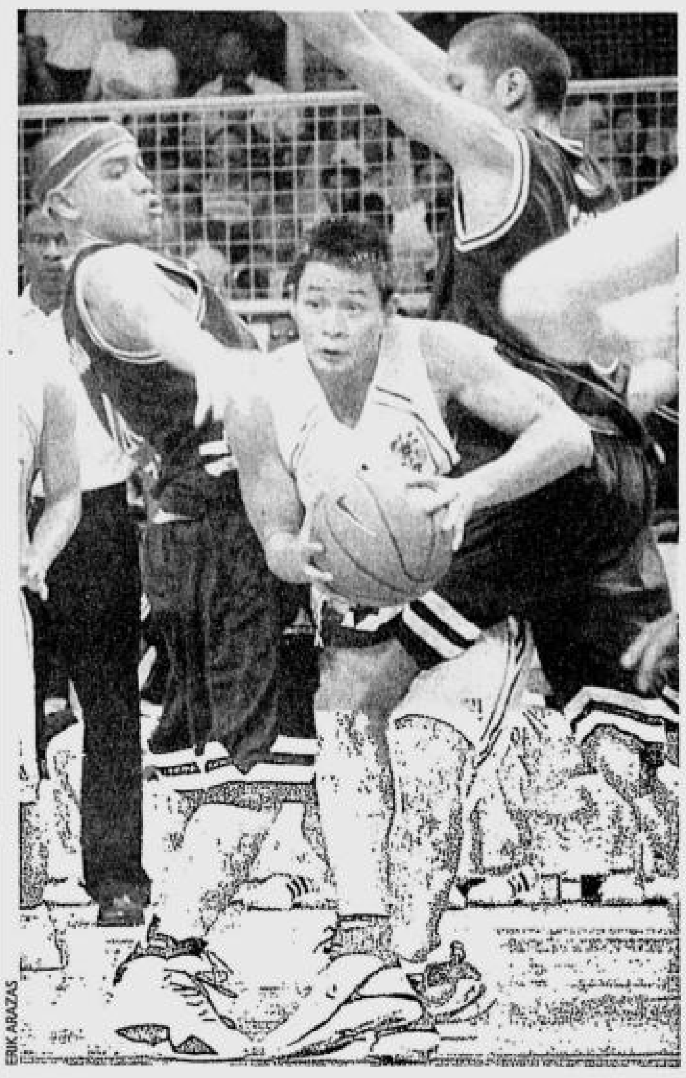
On Thursday, the Filipinos go up against last year's runner-up, the Chinese-American Selection of the United States at 7 p.m.

"We'll do our best to win and bring honors to the country," said RP-Air21 head coach Bo Perasol, who will be assisted by Johny Tam.

Tam piloted the FedEx team to a respectable third-place finish behind host Hong Kong and a team from the United States last year.

Arboleda, Ranidel de Ocampo and Bruce Dacia are the only holdovers from last year's team, which posted a 3-2 win-loss record in the week-long tournament hosted by the Hong Kong Basketball Association (HKBA).

GAMES TODAY
(Hong Kong Coliseum)
2 p.m.—RP-Air21 vs. Singapore
3:30 p.m.—Malaysia vs. Thailand
6 p.m.—Opening ceremony
7 p.m.—USA vs. Japan
8:30 p.m.—Hong Kong vs. China



ATENEO'S Macky Escalona tries to squeeze out of a double-team put up by UP's Arvin Braganza (left) and Galen Cacha in their UAAP game Sunday at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. The Eagles won, 98-89.

ERIK ARAZAS

Giants get back to work after tense week

THE HUNT FOR INDIVIDUAL AWARDS OVER and done with, the Purefoods Chunkee Giants will now do their searching collectively.

Coach Ryan Gregorio said his team has regained its focus as it prepares for Game 5 of the best-of-seven Gran Matador Brandy-PBA Philippine Cup Finals.

He admitted the Giants went through some "tense" moments early in the title series because three of their starters were in strong contention for the Most Valuable Player honor.

"It's nice that the postseason award is over so we can go back again to playing as a team, pretty much like what we have been doing this whole conference," said Gregorio.

Purefoods raced to a 2-0 lead but lost to Red Bull in Game 3, 79-89. The Giants then regained their bearings in Game 4 with a stunning 99-81 rout of the Bulls to take a commanding 3-1 lead.

Fourth championship?

Another victory in Game 5 tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum will give the Purefoods franchise its fourth All-Filipino championship.

That the Giants are on the verge of the crown in just four games of the series is a testament to their resiliency, according to Gregorio.

Season MVP James Yap and Kerby Raymundo also made it to the Mythical Team together with another Purefoods hotshot Roger Yap.

Power-forward Marc Pingris, also in contention for the MVP honor, was the runaway choice as the Most Improved Player and made it both to the Mythical Second Team and the season's All-Defensive Team.

Gregorio denied reports about some sort of a friction between James Yap and Raymundo over the MVP award, saying that Raymundo himself voted for Yap as MVP.

"The greatest gesture and an act of unselfishness was displayed by Kerby Raymundo," said Gregorio moments after last week's Game 4.

Lady Falcons rip newcomer National belles

THE ADAMSON LADY FALCONS KEPT their reputation as a championship-caliber team intact by whipping tournament-newcomer National U Lady Bulldogs, 97-28, at the start of women's basketball hostilities in the UAAP Season 69 Sunday at the University of the East Gym 5 in Manila.

Merenciana Arayi led the Lady Falcons, last year's runners-up, with a game-high 27 points on top of 11 rebounds, five assists and two steals.

The Lady Falcons started the blowout by limiting the Lady Bulldogs to just two points in the second quarter.

University of the Philippines, last year's third placer, made mincemeat of UE, last season's cellar-dweller, 85-64, while No. 4 Far Eastern nipped University of Santo Tomas, 64-62, in the other matches.

Katherine Sandel scattered 20 points, pulled down seven rebounds and issued four assists while Cherrylon Salvana and Ma. Leonora Ravago each had 10 markers for Adamson.

The Lady Bulldogs were paced by Jovelyn Mejia who had 10 points, eight rebounds and one steal. No other Lady Bulldog finished in double figures.

Danielle Bautista had 18 points, Sihaya Sadorra had 16 and Anna Corrine Martha Asistio 14 for the Lady Maroons.

The tournament resumes tomorrow at the Blue Eagle gym in Quezon City with Ateneo taking the floor against UP at 8 a.m., NU facing FEU at 10 a.m. and UE battling UST at 12 noon.

THUNDER STEALERS: Members of the victorious Team Europe (back row) celebrate their revenge victory over Team Asia (front row) during the awards rites Sunday of the MVP Cup: Asia vs. Europe 2 badminton challenge at the Araneta Coliseum. With the protagonists are PLDT and Smart chair Manuel V. Pangilinan, the tournament host (third from left, front row); former President Fidel V. Ramos; Badminton Association of the Philippines president Amelita Ramos; Marixi R. Prieto, chair of tournament co-sponsor Philippine Daily Inquirer; and retired general Edgardo Aglipay, BAP vice president. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Cone's fate hangs in the balance

By June Navarro

TIM CONE'S FATE WITH THE ALASKA ACES will be known today when team management decides on whether its long-time mentor in the Philippine Basketball Association stays or not.

Team manager Joaqui Trillo is set to announce whether the Alaska management would either retain a successful 18-year partnership with Cone or end another era in professional basketball.

An American national, Cone steered Alaska to 11 PBA titles, including a rare grand slam in 1996, that made the franchise the third winningest ballclub in league history after San Miguel Beer and Crispa.

Sources said that as soon as Cone steps down, RP coach Vincent "Chot" Reyes, Cone's assistant in the 1990s, would be his likely successor. By then, Cone will become the team's consultant.

Cone's contract with the Aces ended over the weekend, almost two weeks after Alaska lost the best-of-seven semifinals against Purefoods despite leading the series at 3-1.

SPORTSWATCH

Tuguegarao hosts Shell youth Active chess

THE 2006 SHELL NATIONAL YOUTH ACTIVE CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS RESUME on July 22 and 23 with another huge field expected to dispute the titles in two divisions as well as berths in the grand finals at the People's Gymnasium in Tuguegarao City. The top three winners in each category in the seven-round Swiss system tournament serving as the third leg will join the other top finishers in the grand finals in October. According to the organizing Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., entries in the 14-year-old tournament will be on a first-come, first-served basis in both the kiddies (14-and-under) and juniors (20-and-under) divisions. Call 744-1664 or 0916-5146384 or Mariano Cabugos (078 844-2894).

Sen. Lapid Invitational golf slated

THE SECOND SEN. MANUEL "LITO" LAPID INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT HAS been set July 28 at the West course of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong City. As of yesterday, 144 golfers from the government and business sectors have signed up for the tournament that Lapid launched last year at the Riviera. "We are staging the event again to generate funds for our nationwide sports development program and for the Association for the Socio-Economic Development of Pinoy," he said. Tournament chair Roy Sangil said the event will use the shotgun tee-off to accommodate as many players as possible.

P500,000 at stake in SJC's on-cocker

A PRIZE POT OF P500,000 WILL BE UP FOR GRABS IN THE "SUPER FASTEST Win One-Cock Ulutan" this Saturday at the San Juan Coliseum. To accommodate small-time cockers and ordinary hackfight enthusiasts, the SJC management lowered the entry fee to P1,100. Each winner will get a P1,000 bonus. The fastest win champion will get P75,000; second, P30,000; third, P15,000; fourth, P10,000; 5th to 10th place, P5,000; 11th to 20th, P3,000; 21st to 30th, P2,000; and 31st to 50th, P1,000. The first 10 and last 10 winners will win a mountain bike each while the slowest winner gets P10,000 and a washing machine.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Bashful Lady (5), Gentleman's Lady (3), Romblon Rock (7), River Bandit (1), Vinta's Pride (2)
Race 2—(Tri)—Fast Reason (3), Sir Brendan Jean (5), Hazmagic (2)
Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Que Sera Sera (1), Noble Scholar (8), Brown Bomber (4), Alam Ko Na Yan (4), Virgin Hall (5)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Nice Legs (5), Please Do (3), Queen of Diamonds (7), Arctic Desert (6)
Race 5—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Iron Mic (11), Sakura Ijhay (2), Nitty Gritty (8), Fernan Ikaw Pa Rin (3), Tribeca (5)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Mes Monique/Bombshell Beaut (2), Money For Rap (5), Dow Jones (3), Red Diamond (1)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Golden Broock (10), Yankee Clipper (9), Pulilan Beauty (7), Summit Force (5), Morning Glory (11)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Chabacana (14), Power of the Wind (10), Yoshiwara (5), Britnney's Magic (6), Onceuponatime (2), Steel Smasher (1)

Basketball is not for Filipinos

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE STIRRING VICTORIES OF FILIPINO JUNgolfers Dottie Ardina, Cyna Rodriguez and Mia Legaspi in last week's Callaway Junior World Golf Championships in San Diego, California, and the euphoria over the just-ended Fifa World Cup in Germany should open the eyes of sports officials to encourage the development of non-basketball sports where height is not an advantage.

I have no quarrel with the fact that basketball is the country's No. 1 sport, but sports officials should be reminded that the importance they are giving to the dash-and-dribble game has become too exaggerated. In fact, even the legendary Carlos Loyzaga, the greatest Filipino basketball player of all time, once noted that in the Philippines basketball has top priority over the other sports. "This is wrong," said Mr. Loyzaga, who is now based in Australia, "because there are other sporting disciplines where the Filipino athletes can excel."

Basketball is simply not the sport for Filipinos. Take the 2006 William Jones Cup in Taiwan, for example. Even though sports officials formed a well-funded Philippine team composed mostly of PBA players and a few pro-bound college stars, SMC-Pilipinas still failed to make the round of four after losing four games in five starts during the qualifying series. It's a pity because in the past the Philippines was always assured of making an impact and, in most cases, bringing home a medal from a regional tournament of this level.

Many say that the huge budget earmarked for the national cage team would have been spent more wisely if it was used to promote and develop non-basketball sports like golf, football, tennis, boxing, bowling, billiards and chess, to cite a few.

In the mid-1980s, then jungolfers Ramon Brobio and Carito Villaroman put the Philippines on the world map when they won the World Junior Golf Championships. Frankie Miñoza, Dorothy Delasin and Jennifer Rosales also did the country proud by making their presence felt on the international golf scene. In football, Filipinos can perform better because of their speed and raw courage. As retired Col. Julian Malonso, a former POC president, said: "Basketball is not the sport for the Filipinos because height counts much. We should concentrate more on football mainly because the ball is on the ground."

The late Felicisimo "Mighty Mite" Ampon, the first Philippine Sportswriters Association Athlete of the Year in 1950, was the toast of the tennis world during his prime; Gabriel "Flash" Elorde was pro boxing's hero before Manny Pacquiao, while Olympic silver medal winners Anthony Villanueva and Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco were the country's top simonpures. Paeng Nepomuceno gave us our proudest moments in tenpin bowling, winning a record four World Cup titles; simple and humble Efren "Bata" Reyes is the planet's "greatest billiards player" while Eugene Torre, Asia's first grandmaster, and, most recently, Mark Paragua, are the brightest stars in the world of chess.

The Philippines was unable to participate in three international basketball tournaments last year, including the Asian Basketball Confederation championship and the RP-hosted 23rd SEA Games after the country was suspended by Fiba, the international basketball federation. Fiba banned the country after the Philippine Olympic Committee expelled the Basketball Association of the Philippines. Now both the POC headed by Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and the BAP led by Joey Lina are racing against time to convince Fiba honchos to lift the suspension so that the Philippines may again compete in the Asian Games set in Doha, Qatar, on Dec. 1-15.

* * *

CHEERS AND JEERS: What makes national shooter Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla click? Patience, perseverance and dedication. That, in a nutshell, is the winning formula that enabled the 41-year-old general manager of Spring Cooking Oil to earn a slot in the Asian Games for the seventh time since 1978. "I'm glad I passed the grade," said Padilla in a phone interview after he tied the Asiad qualifying score of 564 points in his favorite rapid fire pistol event. A son of ex-Olympic shooter Mariano "Tom" Ong, Padilla represented the Philippines in the Bangkok Asian Games in 1978, New Delhi (1982), Seoul (1986), Beijing (1990), Bangkok (1998), Busan (2002) and now Doha (2006)… There is no question that former French football captain Zinedine Zidane is a brilliant player, but exemplary he is not. For head-butting Italy's Marco Materazzi in the chest during last week's World Cup final (which Italy won, 5-3, in penalty kicks), Zidane committed an unpardonable act. He should not have lost his cool…

Easy win for Millas, Santos in Rudy race

THE DUO OF MARY ANN MILLAS and Tanya Santos of Culot Power Team took line honors and the Experienced Division championship in the first Rudy Challenge all-women adventure race held at the La Mesa Eco Park Forest Reserve recently.

Millas and Santos posted an unbeatable time of 6:03.41 to show the way for the 39 two-woman teams that finished the 28-kilometer course.

Finishing second were Lenina Ocampo and Jennifer Corpuz of UPM Drift who clocked 6:36.35. Third were Wildman Performance Sandal's Nina Singol and Heidi Samo in 6:59.30.

Veteran organizer Thumbie Remigio laid out the race course that featured tower climbing, trekking, mountain biking, tree planting, rappelling, swimming, trail running and hiking.

Sharing the limelight in the event aimed at promoting environmental awareness were Flou Descaller and Elaine Lerios who ruled the Veterans group with a time of 6:15.50.

Pen Nepomuceno and Ma. Cristina Reano beat the pair of national duathlon champion Rizielle Tangan and Amelia Dida to second place with a time of 6:46.01. Cycling Zone's Tangan-Dida timed 6:52.35.

Adventure racing first-timers Christina Navarro and Chari Onyangco submitting the best time of 4:30.11 to win the Novice division disputed over 22 km.

The Pinay at Heart division among members of the gay community was topped by Rey Agapay and Ace Domingo of The Glamazons (6:49.59).

"Aside from environmental awareness, it was also our intention to push for gender equality in sports," said project director Ron LaRocque of the David Salon Foundation.

Jackson makes it 3-of-4; Sy, Peña pick up points

TYSON Sy (88) presses compatriot Dado Peña (14) in Round 9. Sy eventually pulled in front to finish fourth.

GUANGDONG—FILIPINOS TYSON SY and Dado Peña finally completed the race but the spotlight firmly belonged to Irishman Ali Jackson who completed an amazing 3-of-4 performance as the Asian Formula Three Series concluded its stint Sunday at the Zhuhai International Circuit.

Racing in wet conditions, Sy and Peña came all the way from 10th and 12th on the grid of Round 9 to finish fourth and fifth, respectively, locking themselves in a see-saw battle from the eighth lap on to determine the best Filipino finisher for the day.

From No. 2 on the grid, Jackson, of Aran Racing, slipped past Briton James Winslow in the second lap and started pulling away en route to his third win in four races in Zhuhai.

The feat boosted Jackson's overall lead with 127 points going into the next three rounds in Indonesia next month. He also ruled Rounds 6 and 7 on Saturday and finished second in Round 8 earlier Sunday.

ASIAN F3 SERIES
Round 9

1. Ali Jackson	Ireland	21:44.820
2. James Winslow	England	21:54.091
3. Moreno Soeprapto	Indonesia	22:00.212
4. Tyson Sy	Philippines	22:01.007
5. Dado Peña	Philippines	22:01.515

"I had a very good start and just pounced on it," said Jackson, who posted his fourth win overall, counting his win in Round 5 here last month. "The car was good, there was not much change in the setup."

Coming off his first win of the season in Round 8, Winslow of Fujitsu Racing with Threebond JA Motorspots opted to take it easy after being overtaken by Jackson. He settled for second place, picking up 15 points and jumping to second overall from fourth with 107, just two ahead of Speedtech Asia's Sy who earned 10 points for 105.

"The car was not really working well in these conditions but I'm happy with the result," said Winslow, who was close to pulling out of the series last month when his car failed to deliver the power he wanted.

For the second straight race, Indon Moreno Soeprapto of Aran Racing took the third podium spot for 12 points and moved up to solo fifth in the standings with 64.

Peña, of Team Goddard, earned eight points but slipped to sixth overall with 60.

Briton Dillon Battistini settled for sixth and earned six points for 104 overall.

Organizers heaved a big sigh of relief when the race ended because no major crash occurred, unlike in the first three when slippery conditions left most of the drivers stranded on the 4.3-kilometer track.

Of the 13 starters in Round 9, only Roland Hermoso of the Philippines failed to finish as he drove into the gravel in lap 8.

Peña and Sy provided the highlight for most of the race, figuring in dangerous overtaking maneuvers, particularly in lap 8. Sy finally took control of fourth spot in lap 9 but was pushed all the way to the finish by Peña, who had failed to finish in the last three rounds.

"I was after the points, really," said the 18-year-old Sy, adding he and Peña wished each other good luck before the race. "We both needed it.

Indon Satrio Hermanto of R&W Team Indonesia Joson F3 won the Promotions class for the second straight time, followed by Macau's Cheong Lou-men and lady driver Gaby dela Merced of Speedtech Asia.

Tañamor, 2 other RP pugs make Karachi finals

VETERAN INTERNATIONALISTS HARRY TAÑAMOR, Violito Payla and Joan Tipon won their semifinal bouts Monday to barge into the finals of the tough Greenhill Cup boxing competitions recently in Karachi, Pakistan.

Athens Olympians Tañamor and Payla set up gold-medal clashes with South Koreans while Tipon will meet a Pakistani in Monday's finals of the 21-nation tournament.

Payla highlighted the Philippines' torrid show as he stunned Pakistan's leading flyweight, Nouman Kariman, 27-20, after light flyweight Tañamor broke the heart of the crowd with a 24-20 defeat of Nas Khan, 24-20.

Bantamweight Joan Tipon easily outpointed India's Bijender Singh, 28-12.

The Philippine boxing team could have sent four men to the finals but Genebert Basadre fell in the lightweight class.

Basadre, the reigning Southeast Asian Games titleholder, dropped a close 19-20 decision to Syria's Yasser Shekan, and RP team officials blamed the defeat to the Filipino's overconfidence.

Basadre won the first three rounds but relaxed in the last canto, allowing Shekan to take the upper hand.

"Our boxers are carrying the Philippine flag proudly and I can't ask for more," said Manny T. Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines.

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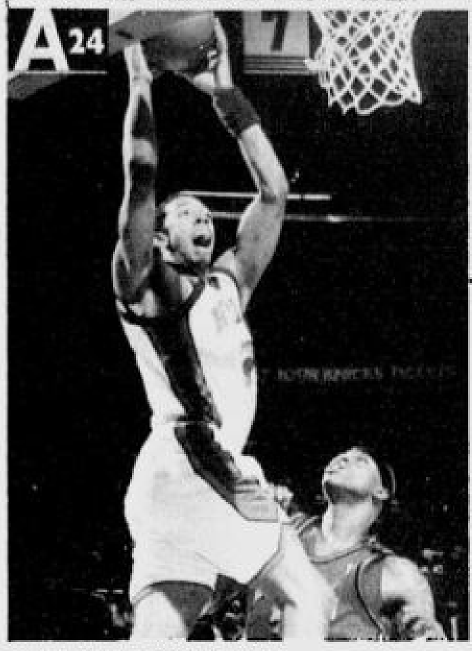
SPORTS



CHANNING FRYE: Reliable go-to guy.

NBA Madness features versatile Frye

HE'S 6-FOOT-11 AND 240 POUNDS. BUT he can run the floor well for a guy his size. He's intelligent, fundamentally sound in nearly every department, can make his post move with either hand, and is a reliable go-to guy. His offensive rebounds and tip-ins make the opposition go "aaarrrggh!"

He's Channing Frye, and he's coming to Manila July 19 for NBA Madness Celebrity Jam. Together with Slam Dunk runner-up Andre Iguodala of the Philadelphia 76ers, the San Antonio Spurs Silver Dancers and Harry the Hawk, official mascot of the Atlanta Hawks, Channing will entertain fans, give them a taste of real NBA action and serve up authentic NBA flavor from July 20 to 22 at the Araneta Coliseum Parking Lot and Concourse.

NBA Madness Celebrity Jam Night is July 22, starting at 7:30. The ultimate sport-show biz-and-music happening for the entire family, this NBA package features a full-court game of celebrity basketball, live music performances, and appearances by NBA stars.

Hot stars of the Philippine entertainment and sports scenes will compete in the Celebrity Basketball Game, between Team Miami Heat and Team Dallas Mavericks. Donning NBA uniforms are Richard Gomez, Gary Valenciano, brothers Zoren and Kier Legaspi; Anjo Yllana, Richard Gutierrez, Wendell Ramos, Elvis and Rocky Gutierrez, Antonio Aquitania, Robert Ortega, James Blanco, Emilio Garcia and members of the Coca-Cola Tigers.

Alps major obstacle to Landis win

GAP, FRANCE—L'ALPE D'HUEZ, THE IZOARD AND GALIBIER PASSES. Hard climbs, legendary climbs, climbs that decide the Tour de France.

One bad day, even one bad hour, on those punishing ascents in the Alps this week could end Floyd Landis' bid for the Tour title. After two weeks of racing and little separating Landis from the other top riders, the Tour is perfectly poised for a thrilling finale.

Landis and the 155 other cyclists who have made it this far, surviving crashes, scorching heat, and 2,679 kilometers (1,664 miles) of racing, have all of Monday to rest their aching muscles, patch up scrapes and sores and focus on the 978 kilometers (607 miles) that remain to the finish line in Paris next Sunday.

Distance-wise, it may seem that most of the work is done.

Think again.

Tuesday brings the first of three make-or-break days in the Alps. And if those towering mountains don't sift out a winner, then the Tour could be decided in the last long time trial next Saturday, when the riders race alone against the clock.

"Three big days in the Alps, one big time trial, anything can happen," said Landis' Dutch teammate, Koos Moerenhout.

After Sunday's 14th stage, won by Frenchman Pierrick Fedrigo, Landis was still where he says he wants to be: Second overall, 1 minute, 29 seconds behind Oscar Pereiro of Spain.

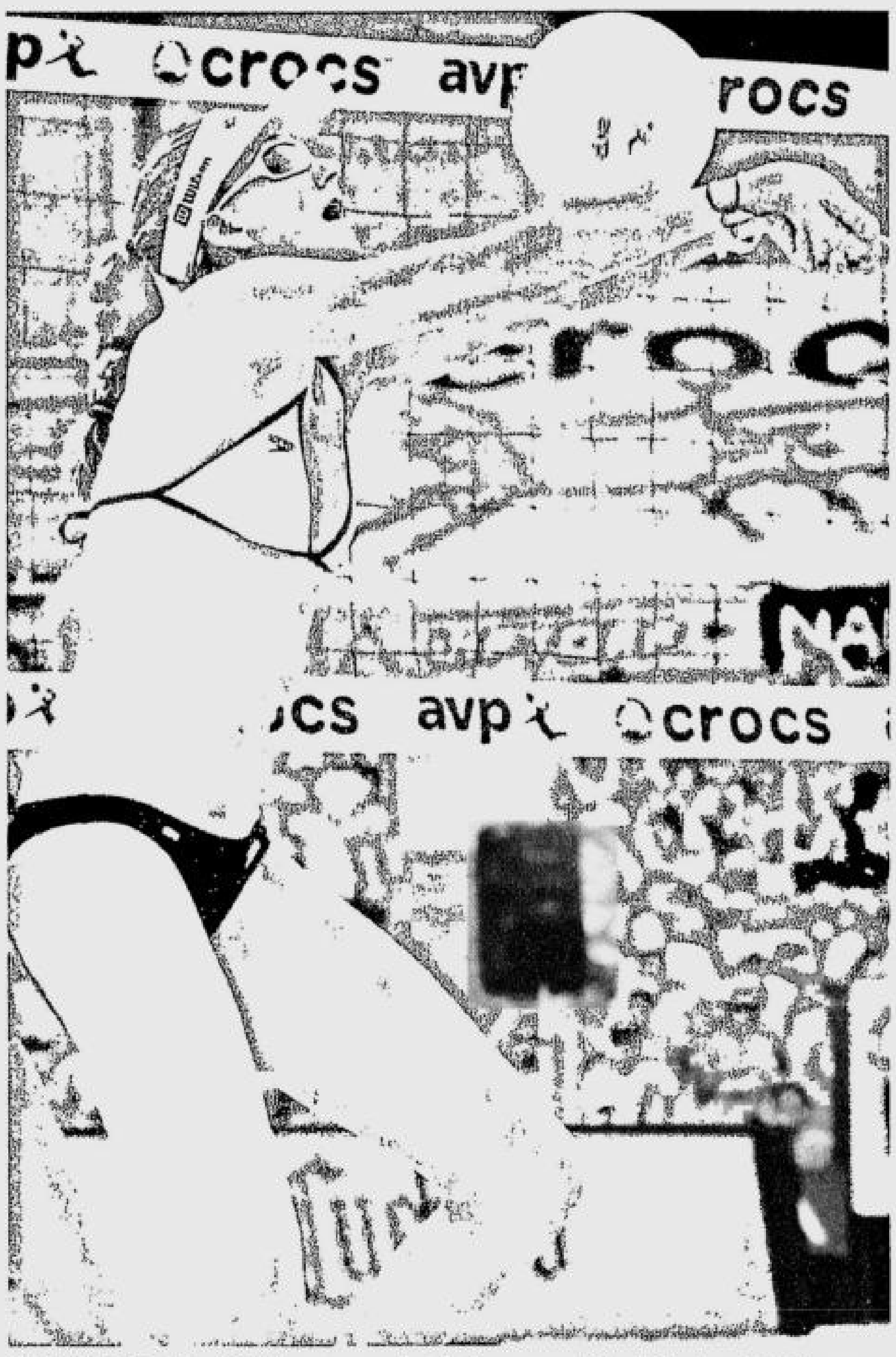
Landis believed that having the overall lead going into the rest day would have put too much pressure on his Phonak team. So the American relinquished it to Pereiro a couple of days before, letting the Illes Balears rival ride ahead and take the lead on Saturday.

Landis is hoping that Illes Balears will try to keep Pereiro in the lead by racing up at the front of the pack —where cyclists expend the most energy—sparing the need for his Phonak teammates to do so. Landis wants to keep his team of support riders as fresh as possible so they can help him up the climbs in the Alps.

"We'd like to have some other teams with some motivation to ride, other than us," Landis said Sunday.

At some point before Paris, of course, Landis will need to get back the lead if it he is to be the successor to seven-time winner Lance Armstrong. And he is betting that Pereiro, when it really counts, won't be able to stop him.

Pereiro struggled in the Pyrenees last week and was slower than Landis in the first long time trial at the end of week one. *AP*



SUPERB FORM: Kerri Walsh returns a shot in the women's finals Sunday of the Hoover Open in the AVP Crocs Tour at the Hoover Met in Hoover, Alabama. AP

Mourning returning as Heat start title buildup

MIAMI—MORE MONEY COULDN'T LURE Alonzo Mourning away from the Miami Heat. It was the fans who convinced him to delay retirement and help the team defend its NBA championship.

MOURNING AP

The 36-year-old center said on Sunday he declined high-paying offers from other teams, including the San Antonio Spurs.

"I had received lucrative offers from other teams and it was very difficult to turn those down," he said before the start of his annual charity basketball game at the Heat's arena. "I've invested here in the community and I expect to spend the rest of my life here with my kids. I didn't feel it was worth leaving."

The game—which also featured Heat teammate Antoine Walker and other NBA players—is part of a weeklong series of events he organizes to benefit underprivileged children.

Mourning announced late Saturday at his charity gala that he would return to the Heat for one more season. It will be his 14th in the NBA—not including a year he missed because of kidney disease that necessitated a transplant in December 2003.

He got a standing ovation on Sunday from the crowd at AmericanAirlines Arena when he repeated his decision to return to Miami.

"Zo coming back for another year makes everyone smile," said Heat teammate Dwyane Wade, who arrived to watch the game.

Mourning averaged 7.8 points, 5.5 rebounds and 2.66 blocks last season. *AP*

Schumacher posts eighth straight win

MAGNY-COURS, FRANCE—MICHAEL SCHUmacher has always said that he will only truly reflect on his extraordinary Formula One achievements when he retires.

Judging from his current form and obvious hunger for victory that day may be still some way off, but on Sunday the seven times world champion gave himself a few more milestones to consider in his old age.

The 37-year-old's victory for Ferrari in France made him both the first driver to win the same grand prix eight times and the first to make 150 appearances on the Formula One podium.

He already held the record of seven wins at the same circuit—the San Marino Grand Prix at Imola, in Canada and France.

Only France's Alain Prost and the late Ayrton Senna came close to that.

Prost won six times in France and Brazil, while Senna ruled Monaco's street circuit with six wins in the Mediterranean principality.

Yet Prost, the four times world champion who is always the next name down in the list after Schumacher, had 'only' 106 podium finishes.

Among current Formula One drivers, the next most familiar with the podium are Briton David Coulthard and Rubens Barrichello with 61 apiece. *Reuters*

JOHN SENDEN: The first is always the sweetest. AFP

Senden snares 1st PGA crown after 139 starts

CHICAGO—AUSTRALIAN JOHN SENden captured his first PGA Tour event title after 139 starts with a one-shot win on Sunday in the John Deere Classic in Silvis, Illinois.

The victory qualifies Senden to play in the British Open at Hoylake starting Thursday.

Leading by three shots overnight, he fired a final round three-under-par 68 for a 19-under-par 265, just holding off American JP Hayes who closed with a 65.

"I felt great," Senden told reporters. "A trip to the British (Open) sounds good."

Germany's Alex Cejka (67) and American Heath Slocum (68) tied for third, three strokes behind the winner.

Hayes turned on the pressure down the back nine but a par by Senden on the 18th from a greenside bunker secured victory.

The Australian's previous best finish in five years on the PGA Tour was a tie for fifth at the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic in January.

Most of the attention during the week had been focused on Michelle Wie, who was trying to become the first woman in 61 years to make the cut on the PGA Tour. She was eight over after 27 holes and withdrew due to heat exhaustion on Friday.

MJC hosts RP-Japan racing festival

THE MANILA JOCKEY CLUB (MJC) plays host to the 2nd Philippine-Japan Friendship Racing Festival today at San Lazaro Leisure Park (SLLP) in Carmona, Cavite, to commemorate the Golden Jubilee Year of normalization of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Japan.

MJC chair and president Alfonso R. Reyno Jr. said the event "celebrates the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries."

Japanese Ambassador Ryuchiro Yamazaki is the event's guest of honor. Also expected at the races are Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo, Supreme Court Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban, key Japanese embassy officials, members of the diplomatic corps, and members of the Philippine-Japan Chamber of Commerce.

The evening's race program will have eight races—three of which are 1,525-meter stakes races, namely, the 2nd Frontier Call Diplomatic Gold Cup, sponsored by FAI Corp.; the Isuzu Racing Cup, backed by Isuzu Philippines Corp.; and Japan Airlines' Friendship Trophy Race.

The affair will be highlighted by a "Concert at the Races," featuring world-class tenor Ramon Acoymo and lyric soprano Aileen Espinosa-Cura.

Kim rallies, rules Jamie Farr Classic

SYLVANIA, OHIO—SOUTH KOREA'S Mi Hyun Kim rallied late to catch Natalie Gulbis and outlasted her on the third playoff hole Sunday to win the $1.2-million LPGA Jamie Farr Classic.

American Gulbis appeared to be on the verge of capturing her elusive first title. She held a two-shot lead with three holes left in regulation before being run down by Kim.

The 29-year-old Kim used birdies on Nos. 16 and 17 to force the playoff, somewhere Gulbis never had been in her four-year career. The 29-year-old South Korean had been 1-3 in playoffs.

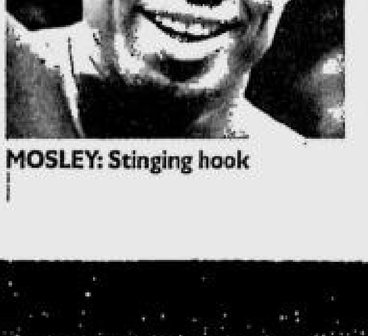
Kim and Gulbis, 23, each settled for pars on the first two playoff holes. Back at par-5 18th, Gulbis looked to be in better position for the win after hitting her third shot inside of Kim's on the green.

However, Kim calmly sank her birdie putt from about 12 feet, squarely putting the pressure on Gulbis. From inside 10 feet, Gulbis' putt sailed just wide, giving Kim the victory.

Kim and Gulbis both shot 6-under-par 65s in regulation to finish at 18-under 266. It was the second win this year and seventh career for Kim, who collected the $180,000 first prize.

Paula Creamer also shot a 65 to finish one shot back, missing the playoff when she missed a birdie putt at No. 18. *AFP*

Mosley's swagger, punching power back



MOSLEY: Stinging hook

LAS VEGAS—THE LEFT HOOK epitomized everything that's thrill-ing about Sugar Shane Mosley—speed, creativity and a dazzling flair for the dramatic.

That near-perfect punch dropped Fernando Vargas to the canvas in the sixth round of their rematch on Saturday, and their 154-pound (69-kilogram) fight was over moments later.

The hook was a stinging reminder to anybody who had forgotten why the 34-year-old Mosley became a popular four-time champion idolized by fans, lionized by rappers, and imitated by legions of young boxers.

For the second time in five months, Mosley had battered one of the world's top 154-pound (69-kilogram) fighters—and kicked open every door that closed to him after back-to-back losses to Winky Wright in 2004.

Sugar Shane has his swagger back, but when will he use it? Not even Mosley knows for sure.

"I really have my eye set on taking the rest of the year off," Mosley said. "I fought two good fights this year, and I need a break. I have a lot of money. It's not like (promoters) Oscar (De La Hoya) and Bernard (Hopkins) and I are thirsting after extra money. We just want the best fights possible."

There are plenty of fine possibilities, however. Mosley (43-4, 37 KOs) probably could meet Floyd Mayweather Jr. in November or several other welterweights would line up for a shot when Mosley moves back down to 147 pounds (66 kilograms). *AP*

POWER KICK: Poland's Salowmir Oglaza (left) battles Romania's Mihai Madaian in the under-70 kg category during the 8th World Taekwondo Juvenile Championship in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. AP

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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Movie-TV board chides ABS-CBN's 'Correspondents'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

AFTER THE GMA 7 DOCUMENTARY program "I-Witness," it's the turn of ABS-CBN current affairs show "The Correspondents" to be reprimanded by the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB).

The reproach arose from the program's June 26 episode entitled, "Ang Pinoy Rasta," which "featured the actual smoking of marijuana [of a young man] in the presence of his father who, in turn, confessed that he smoked marijuana with his son occasionally."

In a memorandum dated July 6 and addressed to ABS-CBN and the network's Current Affairs head Luchi Cruz-Valdez, the board admonished the show because the scenes "seem to project that smoking marijuana is an enjoyable activity ... sending a strong message that [it's] okay."

Signed by chair Marissa P. Laguardia, the memo pointed out that PD 1986 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) "prohibit the airing/public showing of scenes that tend to abet the use of prohibited drugs."

The memo required the network's representatives to appear before the board's hearing and adjudication committee on July 11.

Charge disputed

During the hearing, network representatives—lawyer Maxim Uy, executive producer Anna Rodriguez, reporter Rose Eclarinal and segment producer Ciara Sembrano—sat down with the MTRCB board of advisers, led by journalist Ed Sicam and lawyer Zosimo Alegre, and chair Laguardia.

According to Laguardia, the station "disputed" the charge, which has led to another hearing set today.

In a phone interview with INQUIRER Entertainment, Valdez pointed out that the docu was a look into Rastafarianism—"a growing subculture."

Intrinsic

Valdez explained: "Smoking marijuana is an intrinsic part of the Rasta religion. Tropical Depression vocalist Dominic 'Papadom' Gamboa and 'Pinoy Big Brother' housemate Errol 'Budoy' Marabiles were featured in that episode."

Since the network was practicing self-regulation, Valdez said, the program producers refrained from showing celebrities, who are considered role models, in the controversial scene. Instead, they opted to feature the unknown Rastafarian and his father.

According to Valdez, the episode in question was aired at 1:20 a.m. and carried the Parental Guidance warning.

The monitoring report filed by the board's special agents on July 3, however, asserted that "scenes [depicting] the actual use of prohibited drugs are beyond the Parental Guidance classification and [therefore are] not fit for television viewing."

The board's IRR states that material classified PG-13 cannot include a "depiction of, or reference to, prohibited drugs or substances and their use."

The agents emphasized in their report that the board also received complaints from other sources about the episode.

Laguardia told INQUIRER that since the network is contesting the complaint, it would have to undergo the usual adjudication process, which begins with today's hearing.

CAST of "White Lady" above, from left: Iwa Moto, JC de Vera, Angelica Panganiban, Boots Anson-Roa, Pauline Luna, Glaiza de Castro, Franzen Fajardo, Ketchup Eusebio, Jason Abalos with director Jeff Tan (in white). At right, John Estrada and Keana Reeves in the recent Bench fashion show.

IM GUIAO PUNZALAN

John Estrada sports a new butt

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

JOHN ESTRADA IS NOW OOZING WITH more sex appeal after undergoing hydrogel butt augmentation at Dr. Vicki Belo's clinic. It's the same one-hour procedure that Keanna Reeves went through. Since the body is primarily composed of water, Dr. Vicki says, it does not treat hydrogel as a foreign substance. So the new luscious bottom looks and feels natural.

Has it improved John's sex life? He smiles. "I'm celibate because my GF Vanessa is in Vancouver. I'll get to test the effect when I visit her soon." I asked him, "Is sex better with a girlfriend or a wife?" He laughs. "GF!"

John has always been touted as one of the few well-endowed actors. As Dr. Vicki naughtily says, "With his new butt, everything is now balanced down there for John."

But there's no more balancing act as far as his love life is concerned. "I have mellowed. I'm a one-woman man now," he says. He just shrugs off rumors about his flirting with Heart Evangelista while her BF Jericho Rosales was away. "It's so high school! A girl making *sumbong* to her BF that a guy wanted to pick her up at a bar just to see if he will get jealous. Whatever issues they have between them, I hope they stop dragging me into it. I'm too old for such kid stuff!"

Echo can rest assured that he has Heart all to himself because John surely left his heart in Canada.

Pops' cycles

My bosom friend Pops Fernandez is back in full swing. She is excited about her very first back-to-back concert with Ogie Alcasid—"Two of A Kind"—on July 29, 7:30 p.m. at the Dusit Hotel Nikko Makati. Produced by Royale Era Entertainment, it features special guests Ritchie Paul Gutierrez and Gladys Guevarra. (Call 7272534 or 09198191389).

All the major upheavals Pipay has gone through in her personal life have only made her a more soulful chanteuse. Like lately, she had to come to terms with the fact that her ex-hubby Martin Nievera is having a baby boy with girlfriend Katrina Ojeda. "We both cried when we talked about it. Initially, I got hurt because he promised never to have a baby with another woman. But things happen. I have matured so I understand Martin more now. I can even afford to kid him about the whole thing. I asked him if he still knows how to change diapers and carry a baby. Our kids accept the situation. In fact they are now in the US vacationing with Mart and her."

What if, in one of their concerts, Martin acknowledges Katrina's presence in the audience? Pipay sighs. "After all we've been through, that shouldn't matter anymore. Believe me, Martin has done worse things before (laughs)." Is she planning to have a baby herself? "I'm not ready for such a big responsibility all over again but there are days I get *inggit* with girls who have babies. My time will come." Will Jomari Yllana be the father? She chuckles "*I*-pinpoint ba siya? Hahaha!"

She neither confirms nor denies her romance with Jom. "I've been single for the longest time. I don't know why some people make a big deal that Jom was seen in my house at an ungodly hour. It's my house and what if I'm free only at 1 a.m? I've reached a point where I don't give a damn anymore. Enough of the double standard *na* it's okay for separated men to have a gf but separated women are ostracized for having a bf. We are all entitled to be happy."

Her world has turned Popside down many times over. So why deprive her of the happiness she has found now? It's long overdue and rightfully hers.

Be my lady

Bringing the riveting ghost story "White Lady" to life on the silver screen

JOHN/ A2-5

THE FAB 5, WHO ELSE?

THE FAB 5, stars of the Emmy award-winning reality TV show, "Queer Eye For the Straight Guy," arrives in Manila on Thursday for a series of events hosted by the Ayala Malls. They each have their own roles in the show (from left): Thom Filicia, Design Doctor; Ted Allen, Food & Wine Connoisseur; Carson Kressley, Fashion Savant; Kyan Douglas, Grooming Guru; and Jai Rodriguez, Culture Vulture. The series (ETC channel), created by David Collins and David Metzler, sees the quintet coming to the rescue of straight men who need a dash of style.

The changing faces of Oz

CHEER FACTOR

AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS—SHE started off looking like a clownish crazy woman—long hair in a wild braid, one eye popped wide open, petticoat and baggy skirt more outlandish than frightening.

That was in 1900, when the Wicked Witch of the West made her debut in "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz." But since W.W. Denslow first drew her for the pages of L. Frank Baum's classic children's book, Dorothy's nemesis has changed faces several times.

In 1981, Andy Warhol silkscreened her as Margaret Hamilton, freezing the actress in the green-faced role she played in Hollywood's 1939 production of the story. Four years later, artist Barry Moser turned her into Nancy Reagan, placing the pointy-hatted first lady against a black backdrop.

"I'm playing very close to obvious and corny imagery here," Moser wrote at the time.

The original drawings and reinterpretations of the Wicked Witch and other characters from Oz are on display at The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in an exhibit that commemorates the 150th birth anniversaries of Baum and Denslow, and pays tribute to the story's longevity.

The exhibit traces the story of Baum's book, from the cyclone that whisks Dorothy's Kansas farmhouse to the mystical land of Oz to the young girl's return home, thanks to her magical slippers. The Carle Museum show closes Oct. 22 and will not travel.

AP

"High heels?
What about your joint pains?"

"Watch me."

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SAM Concepcion, as Boy Bawang, greets swooning, screaming female fans

HUNK Derek Ramsey, who plays Maestro Machete, listens to Dave Matthews and Jason Mraz on his iPod-cellphone.

Supersize ’em

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Romy Homillada

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

ON A HILLY FIELD SOMEWHERE IN TAGAYTAY, fans have, well, a field day ogling the stars of the forthcoming ABS-CBN *fantaserye* “Super Inggo.”

Intermittent shrieks— “Sam!” and “Makisig!”— interrupt the taping, making TV director Gilbert Perez see red.

But the fans of Sam Concepcion (Boy Bawang) and Makisig Morales (Budong or Super Inggo) are incorrigible.

Sam graciously gives in to requests for autographs and snapshots. He is joined by his partner, Empress Schuck, a.k.a. Ava Abaniko, in greeting the fans.

The autograph session over, Empress retreats to a corner and texts away.

Between takes, Makisig prefers to rest. “But I also do my homework,” he says. “My dad brings my school books to the set.”

Likewise for Sam and Empress.

“I read my modules,” Empress says.

“I bring my laptop. I’m enrolled in the computer-based home-school program of the Christian Academy of Manila,” Sam volunteers.

“That’s precisely the advice I give my young co-stars—to study hard,” says Herbert Bautista, who portrays Commander Bawang, father of Boy Bawang and principal of Power Academy.

Lest we forget, this grassy knoll is substituting for the fictional Power Academy, a school for young superheroes.

Think “X-Men,” local version, with pop culture and *komiks* icons from 1980s Viva, Regal and Seiko movies as lead characters.

With computer technology, says executive producer Mio Siojo, the open field will become the futuristic campus, complete with flying super-teachers and -students.

Pipe down

Meanwhile, Perez pleads with the fans to pipe down because they are using “live sound.”

That’s third world TV magic!

In spite of the frayed nerves and tight shooting sked, cast and crew manage to have a blast.

Empoy Marquez, a.k.a. Petrang Kabayo, horses around with co-stars, while the horse that plays Empoy’s animal-alter ego is contentedly feasting on the grass.

Child star Jacob Dionisio, a.k.a. Transformed POD the *kontrabida*, is playing Game of the Generals with a fellow kid actor.

Zaira de la Peña, or Jessa of “Blusang Itim” fame, is having her makeup retouched and her tresses, curled.

Hunky Derek Ramsey, a.k.a. Machete, is wearing huge headphones, lost in music from his iPod-cellphone.

“I like relaxing music by Dave Matthews and Jason Mraz,” he says. “I’ve been forewarned that shooting hours can be very long, but I honestly enjoy working with kids. If I were not an actor, I’d be a teacher.”

Which is exactly his role in the *fantaserye*, by the way.

Call him Maestro Machete.

EMPOY, right, is transformed into Petrang Kabayo.

ZAIRA de la Peña or Jessa, right, gets her tresses curled.

JACOB Dionisio plays Game of the Generals.

SAM signs autographs.

EMPRESS Schuck, or Ava Abaniko,texts away between takes.

NO, Makisig Morales, or Super Inggo, isn’t texting Empress.

‘Rock Star: Supernova’—are you tuned in?

DANA Andrews

JOSH Logan

TWO GUYS HAVE BEEN BOOTED from Star World's "Rock Star: Supernova" leaving 13 finalists who all want to become the front man of a new group that consists of icons Tommy Lee, Jason Newsted and Gilby Clarke.

Are you tuned in? This new edition of last year's hit reality talent search is also to Asia votes, as usual. Meet the remaining contenders:

DANA ANDREWS, singer/waitress

Hometown: Beech Island, South Carolina

Born and raised in Augusta, Georgia, Dana was inspired to become a singer by her father. The 22-year old found music as far back as elementary school where she threw herself into plays, contests, anything that allowed her to use her voice.

JOHN “PHIL” RITCHIE, musician

Hometown: Salisbury, Maryland

Born in 1978 in a small town called Shadyside, Phil Ritchie was a straight A student who played the trumpet as a member of the Marching Band. He auditioned for the band Lennex and went on to front the band, with whom he has toured the US.

DILANA ROBICHAUX, songwriter/stage performer

Hometown: Houston, Texas

Born in Johannesburg, South Africa, this tattooed powerhouse left school at 16 to perform with several bands. In the Netherlands, she scored her first debut album, “Wonderfool.” She moved briefly to Scotland before setting roots in the US>

JOSH LOGAN, musician

Hometown: Manchester, New Hampshire

Josh Logan started his music career singing karaoke at age 14 (his mother was a karaoke DJ). Josh added the guitar to his talents and by age 15, he was fronting a popular local band, Gunshy. He released a self-titled full length CD in 2004.

(More contenders tomorrow.)

DILANA Robichaux

JOHN “Phil” Ritchie

ROUNDUP

Celebrities swing

THE MOWELFUND Celebrity Golf Invitational Cup held last June 30 at Club Intramuros was a “swinging” success.

The fundraiser, spearheaded by tournament chairman former Senator Tito Sotto, Mowelfund and Talkabout Marketing, was designed to raise revenues for the foundation’s welfare program.

The Class C celebrity winners were: Arnold Clavio, champion; Robert Arevalo, first runner-up; and Jay Manalo, second runner-up. The Class B winners were: Kiyoshi Takeuchi (Japan Embassy), champion; Tony Reyes (film director), first runner-up; and Rex Drilon (Ortigas and Co).

CBCP on ‘Probe’

WAS THE Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) really bribed or influenced by Malacañang?

A bishop gives a first-hand account of the alleged distribution of envelopes on “Probe” tomorrow, 11 p.m. on ABS-CBN.

The program also looks into the implications of Malacañang’s moves on the CBCP and the faithful’s reactions to the bishops’ move.

Spider-Man 3 trailer

THE FIRST trailer of Columbia Pictures’ action-adventure “Spider-Man 3” premieres as an added attraction to “Pirates of the Carribean: Dead Man’s Chest,” now showing in local theaters.

Original cast members Tobey Maguire (as Peter Parker/Spider-Man), Kirsten Dunst (as Mary Jane) and James Franco (as Harry Osborn) with new cast members Topher Grace (as Eddie Brock), Thomas Haden Church (as Sandman) and Bryce Dallas Howard (as Gwen Stacy) are all in the trailer.

Quick cuts begin when Spidey’s black suit is revealed, Sandman takes Manhattan, the Green Goblin strikes back, Peter and MJ share a kiss on a giant web and Spider-Man faces off with his black-suited alter ego.

The movie opens in the Philippines in May 2007.

‘Scissorhands’ auction

LOS ANGELES—The gloves Johnny Depp made famous in “Edward Scissorhands” and the original matte painting from the opening scene of the “Wizard of Oz” will be auctioned off this month in a Hollywood memorabilia fire sale.

Depp’s black gloves will start at $7,000 at the July 28 Beverly Hills auction, conducted by the Profiles In History company, which hopes to sell all items for about two million dollars.

Other items include Dan Akroyd’s jumpsuit from “Ghostbusters” ($8,000), Michael Keaton’s Batman costume from the 1989 movie ($40,000) and former President Ronald Reagan’s Stetson hat ($3,000).

Bids can also be made on the EBay Internet auction site. *AFP*

Movie pirate?

LOS ANGELES—A screenwriter filed a lawsuit claiming Walt Disney Co. and others behind the 2003 blockbuster movie “Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl” pillaged drawings and characters he had created for an earlier project about supernatural swashbucklers.

Royce Mathew filed the copyright infringement suit in US District Court in Los Angeles on July 7 against Disney, Buena Vista Home Entertainment, Jerry Bruckheimer Inc. and other defendants.

Mathew alleged that beginning in the 1980s, he “created and wrote a number of original works including drawings, screenplays, outlines, blueprints, storyboards and other original materials” for what he termed a “Super Natural Pirate Movie.”

Disney denied the allegations.

Mathew is seeking unspecified damages, and a permanent injunction against the movie or “other infringing works,” according to the lawsuit. *AP*

Eco-friendly Pitt

NEW ORLEANS, Louisiana—Hollywood star Brad Pitt was in New Orleans Friday to promote the use of environmentally-friendly materials in the nation’s largest construction project.

Pitt said the rebuilding of the city’s flooded neighborhoods presents an opportunity “to move the nation in a direction it needs to be going and that’s to build more efficiently.”

He spoke after having toured some of the city’s hardest hit neighborhoods where homes swept away by the rushing waters still sit atop crushed car and few residents have returned.

The actor said he was disappointed at the lack of progress nearly a year after the storm. *Russell McCulley, AFP*

Katrina docu

PASADENA, California—A four-hour documentary called “When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts” airing Aug. 21-22 on HBO was produced after filmmaker Spike Lee watched Hurricane Katrina tear through New Orleans on TV last August.

“I was just really mad and sad,” he said. “I said, ‘This is going to be a major moment in American history, and I want to do something about it.’”

The documentary shows how New Orleans survived Katrina against a backdrop of performances by Wynton Marsalis and Terence Blanchard at the Superdome, the French Quarter and the levees. *AP*

These golden oldies are definitely goodies

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

SOME DAYS AGO, WE CITED THE FILM, "I Wanna Be Happy," as a good example of how canny casting can enhance a production's appeal to different groups of viewers. Now, our review of the movie as a whole:

"I Wanna Be Happy" shows what happens when, after almost 50 years, an ostensibly solid marriage "suddenly" falls apart.

Subsequent scenes show that the breakup isn't as "sudden" as it initially appears, and that the sins of omission and commission of the husband (Eddie Garcia) have slowly but surely eroded his wife's (Gloria Romero) love for him.

Thus, Joey Reyes' film serves as a cautionary warning for both old and young couples to never take their union for granted.

Even more tellingly, the break-up has severe effects on the couple's children (Cherry Pie Picache, Joey Marquez, Diana Zubiri), who begin to have second thoughts about their own concepts of love and loyalty.

Thus, the movie makes viewers see that the psychological consequences of faithless love are profound and far-reaching.

This should also have been seen in the attitudes of the couple's grandchildren, but not much of this is shown—an opportunity missed.

But the film is persuasive enough as it is. The production's points are made even more accessible by the movie's use, not only of drama, but also of wry and/or wacky comedy.

In this regard, the senior leads, plus Marquez, Keanna Reeves and Marissa Delgado, make sure that the laughs—and the breezy insights—keep coming.

Sometimes, however, the movie semaphores its signals too urgently, as in Cherry Pie's "wise" peroration toward the end of the film, in which the story's major thematic points are tied up too neatly.

Other debit points include a rather rambling mid-section, cruel lighting that makes Ms. Romero look much older than she actually is, and too many small scenes that look like they've been conceptualized more for TV or easy shooting and thus hinder the film from really opening up its story's scope as much it should.

But these lapses don't substantially compromise the production, which is bolstered by the vital performances turned in by Garcia and Romero.

Between the two of them, these senior stars prove that age is truly a state of mind, and that, when it comes to insightful and antic screen performances, these golden oldies are definitely goodies.

> The senior leads in this movie make sure that the laughs keep coming

May other senior stars also be given the opportunity to gift us with their knowing performances in similarly sparkling cinematic showcases later this year.

Men of Blue Blood

PERFORMING every second and last Wednesday of the month at the Mandarin hotel's Captain's Bar is Men of Blue Blood (MOBB), 10 baby-boomer and two female vocalists who groove to the retro beat of the '60s and '70s.

Chief executives, businessmen and professionals by day, the MOBB transform themselves into ardent musicians during their twice-monthly gigs. Periodically they invite guest bands to perform with them, like the band of BIR Commissioner Lito Buñag. Call 750-8888, extension 2446.

Film Congress

THE FILM Congress of the 2006 Cinemalaya festival will be held at the CCP Little Theater on Thursday and Friday.. The congress seeks to explore the various issues and aspects of independent filmmaking in the Philippines, assess the gains achieved, and examine the technology and practice of digital movies. Visit the CCP website at www.culturalcenter.gov.ph.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

SUPERMAN RETURNS G 12:45,3:50,6:55,10:00	LOVEWRECKED PG13 1:20,3:25	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2 G 12:30,3:30,6:30,9:30
PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2 G 2:10,5:10,8:10	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2 G 2:50,5:50,8:50	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2 G 1:10,4:10,7:10,10:10

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-1440/41

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CINEMA 1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2 12:15 , 3:10 , 6:05 9:00 GP
CINEMA 2 SUPERMAN RETURNS 12:10 , 3:20 , 6:30 9:40 GP
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
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NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3 SUPERMAN RETURNS 11:00 , 2:10 , 5:20 8:30 GP
CINEMA 4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2 11:10 , 2:05 , 5:00 7:55 , 10:50 GP
CINEMA 5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2 10:30 , 1:25 , 4:20 7:15 , 10:10 GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

JULY 22,2006	RAZORBACK BAND	9:00PM
JULY 29,2006	PILITA C. & ELIZABETH R.	8:30PM

TEATRINO
PROMENADE GREENHILLS

EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00PM
EVERY WEDNESDAY	CERRUDO .. CLASSICO	8:00PM
JULY 21 ,2006	JUICE	9:00PM
	FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722-4532 LOC 116	

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ARANETA CENTER
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I WANNA BE HAPPY 12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40
SUPERMAN RETURNS 12:30 / 3:30 / 6:30 / 9:30
LOVE WRECKED 2:10 / 4:40 / 7:10 / 9:40
THE FAST & THE FURIOUS 3 1:20 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 9:20
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST 12:35 / 1:10 / 3:35 / 4:10 5:25 / 6:35 / 7:10 / 9:35 / 10:10
THE LAKE HOUSE 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2 12:00 / 3:00 / 6:00 / 9:00

Ali MALL 5

I WANNA BE HAPPY 12:10 R3 / 1:50 / 4:10 / 6:30 / 8:50
SUPERMAN RETURNS 11:30 / 2:30 / 5:30 / 8:30
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2 12:00 / 3:00 / 6:00 / 9:00
BATAS MILITAR 12:05 R2 / 2:00 / 4:15 / 6:30 / 8:45
SEE NO EVIL 1:10 / 3:00 / 4:50 / 6:40 / 8:30
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

ARANETA COLISEUM
July 19, Wed. PBA PHILIPPINE CUP FINALS
7:10 pm PUREFOODS vs RED BULL
NBA MADNESS 2006 - CELEBRITY JAM
July 22, Saturday - 7:30 pm

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS
THX
Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	2 SUPERMAN RETURNS	3 I WANNA BE HAPPY	4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	3 THX PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 INITIAL D	5 UNITED 93	6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	7 LOVEWRECKED
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST 1:00, 4:15 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST 2:15, 5:30, 11:59 GUARANTEED SEATS	3 LOVEWRECKED 1:30, 3:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 SUPERMAN RETURNS 1:45, 4:50, 7:55, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST 1:36, 4:50, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	3 SUPERMAN RETURNS	4 LOVEWRECKED	5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN DEAD MAN'S CHEST	2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN DEAD MAN'S CHEST	3 SUPERMAN RETURNS	4 SEE NO EVIL			
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	2 I WANNA BE HAPPY	3 INITIAL D	4 SUPERMAN RETURNS	5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST		

At the Activity Center

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Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272, from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 752 4853, from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782, from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
PDI Job Expo July 17 to 19, 2006	Blim's Fine Furniture Exhibit July 3 to 21, 2006
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Kikay Category Sale Event July 21, 2006	Mabuhay Tinapay! July 21, 2006

GREENBELT
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July 19 & 26, 2006

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Repertory Philippines presents
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at REP's Globe Theater - Aug. 12, 20, 26, Sept. 3, 9, Oct. 14 & 22
For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710

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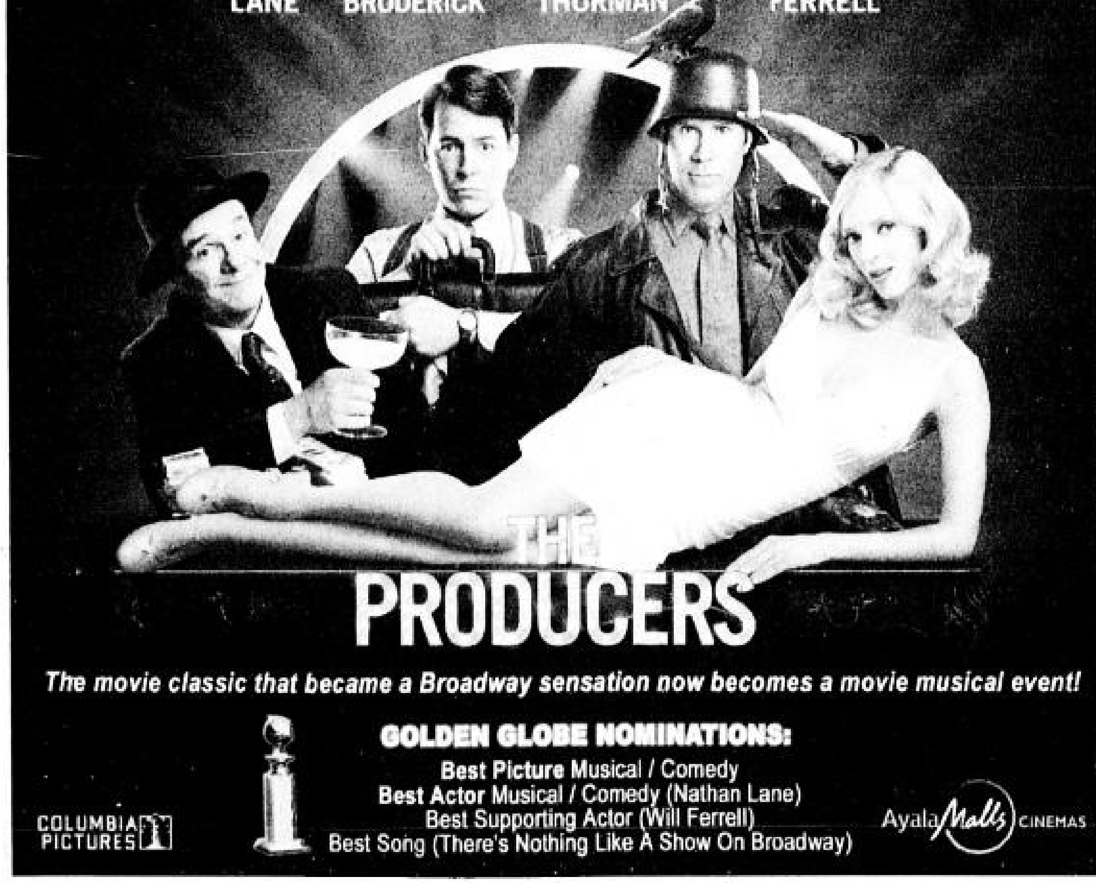
LANE BRODERICK THURMAN FERRELL



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Best Supporting Actor (Will Ferrell)
Best Song (There's Nothing Like A Show On Broadway)
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GREENBELT
Greenbelt 3 Park
July 20 - 7pm
Customer Service Hotline: 757-4853

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Activity Center
July 22 - 10am
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MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
PREMIERE
PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214/816.4216
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
3 I WANNA BE HAPPY
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

starmall
EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7268150
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
5 I WANNA BE HAPPY

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 8433894
1 BATAS MILITAR
2 I WANNA BE HAPPY
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

THEATRES
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 I WANNA BE HAPPY
3 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS -3

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
7 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
8 I WANNA BE HAPPY
9 INITIAL - D
10 BATAS MILITAR

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2 (DOLBY) SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
4 (DOLBY) INITIAL - D

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
3 I WANNA BE HAPPY
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
5 BATAS MILITAR

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SEE NO EVIL
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 I WANNA BE HAPPY
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 I WANNA BE HAPPY
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 BATAS MILITAR

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 GARFIELD - 2

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 I WANNA BE HAPPY
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 I WANNA BE HAPPY
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 SEE NO EVIL

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 LAKE HOUSE
3 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS -3

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 AMERICAN HAUNTING
2 TAKE THE LEAD
3 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS -3
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plandel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
2 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS -3
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS -3

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 SEE NO EVIL
2 LAKE HOUSE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
2 HIRAM NA KATAWAN
3 BALAT SIBUYAS
4 SEE NO EVIL

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 SEE NO EVIL
2 MOLATA
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 I WANNA BE HAPPY
5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 LAKE HOUSE
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 I WANNA BE HAPPY
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 SCARY MOVIE - 4
2 MASARAP NA PUGAD

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

'Rocketman' soars

A WIDOWED engineer must choose between fulfilling a seemingly impractical ambition and his paternal responsibilities in "Rocketman," a six-part family drama that airs Sundays at 8 p.m. on Hallmark Channel.

Devastated after losing his wife Bethan to cancer, former train builder George Stevenson (Robson Green) dreams of building a rocket he could launch into space to scatter her ashes so he and his children, Angela (Lucy Evans) and Tom (John Rhys Halliwell) can always see her in the sky.

ROCKETMAN

He and his man Friday, Barney, assembles a team of builders, mostly former colleagues from a local factory that has closed down. As the team builds the Bethan Two, so are they rebuilding their ruined egos caused by the mass layoff.

The task at hand becomes complicated when personal and work problems distract George and his colleagues. While building the rocket becomes bonding time for father and son, Tom starts neglecting schoolwork.

'The Emperor's New School'

BASED ON Walt Disney Pictures' popular theatrical release "The Emperor's New Groove," "Disney's The Emperor's New School" is an animated comedy-adventure series about Kuzco, a would-be emperor who must graduate from school before he can claim the throne.

Reprising their roles from the feature film are Eartha Kitt as the devious diva Yzma, Patrick Warburton as Yzma's manservant Kronk and Wendie Malick as Pacha's wife Chicha. JP Manoux lends his voice for Kuzco, while Jessica DiCicco is the voice behind the new character Malina, Kuzco's love interest.

The series picks up where the feature film left off. This show takes place in school, where an evil principal is constantly trying to turn the hero into a llama.

"Disney's The Emperor's New School" airs on Saturdays at 7 p.m. on Disney Channel.

THE EMPEROR'S New School

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
MTRCB GP
1 40, 4.50, 8.00

2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
MTRCB GP
2 40 5 50 9.00

3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
MTRCB GP
12 30, 3 35, 6:40, 9.50

4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
MTRCB GP
12 40, 3 50, 7 00,10 10

PREMIERE THEATRE
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
12 00, 3 10, 6 20, 9 30
MTRCB GP

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special.

Come to SHANG'S SEASON-ENDER SALE from JULY 14-31! Enjoy up to 75% OFF on selected items! Get a chance to win exciting prizes in the "SHOP, PICK AND WIN" promo during the sale period.

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See posters and flyers for details. Per DTI NCR Permit No. A3 0538 series of 2006

Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227 for more details.

Shangri-La Plaza

OPENS TOMORROW!
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

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For inquiries, call
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

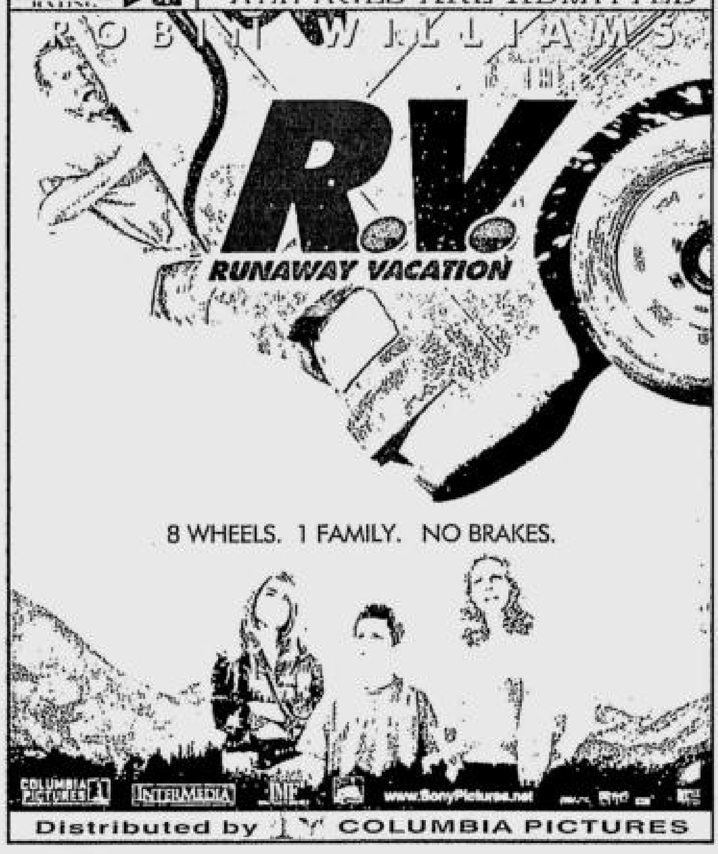
1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
12:50, 4:10, 7:30, 11:00
G

2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
1:40, 5:00, 8:15
G

3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2:45, 6:00, 9:30
G

4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
1:55, 4:55, 8:05, 11:05
G

Take the family on a wild & wacky trip!
THE FUN BEGINS TOMORROW
MTRCB RATING G ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED



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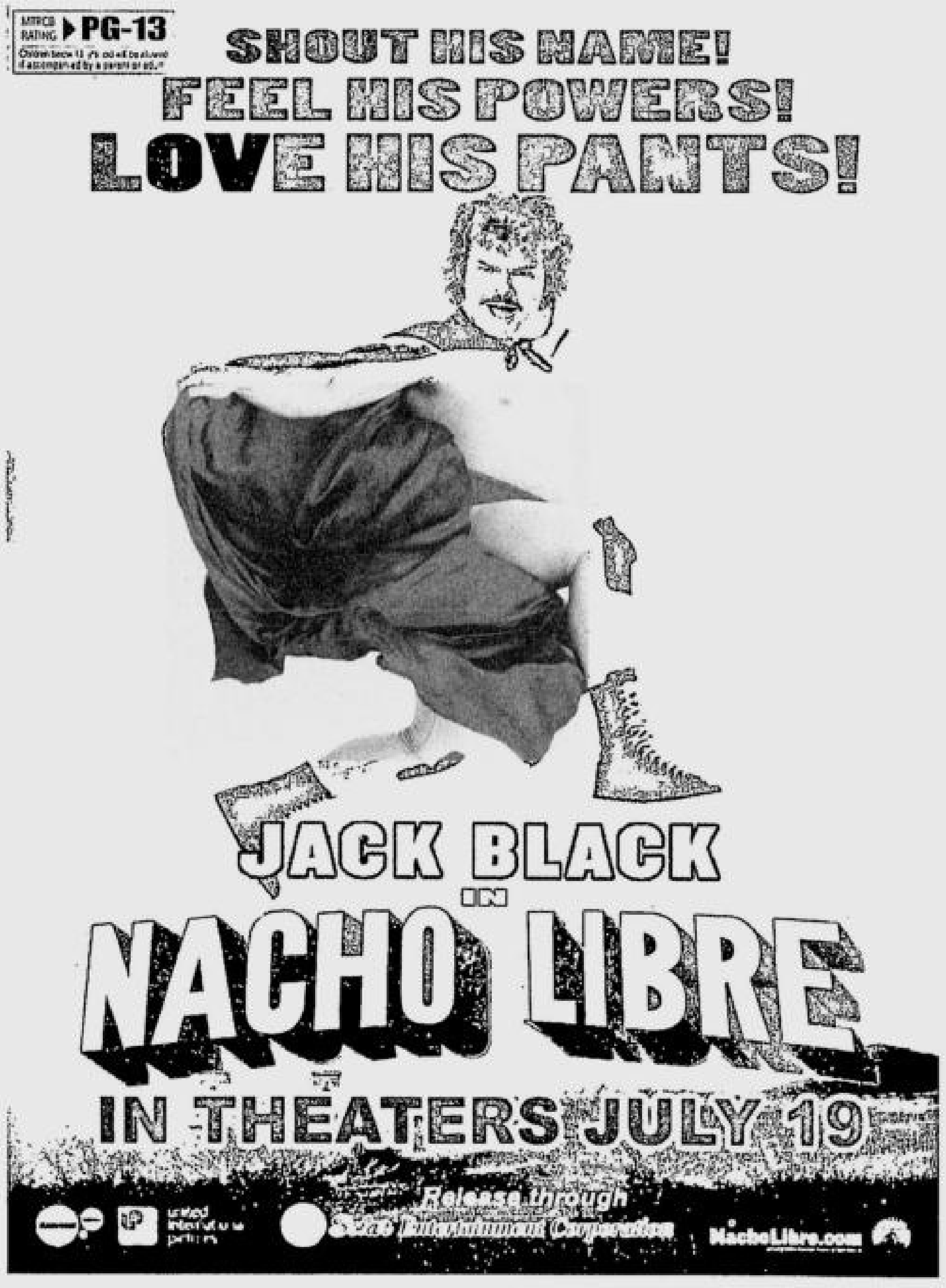
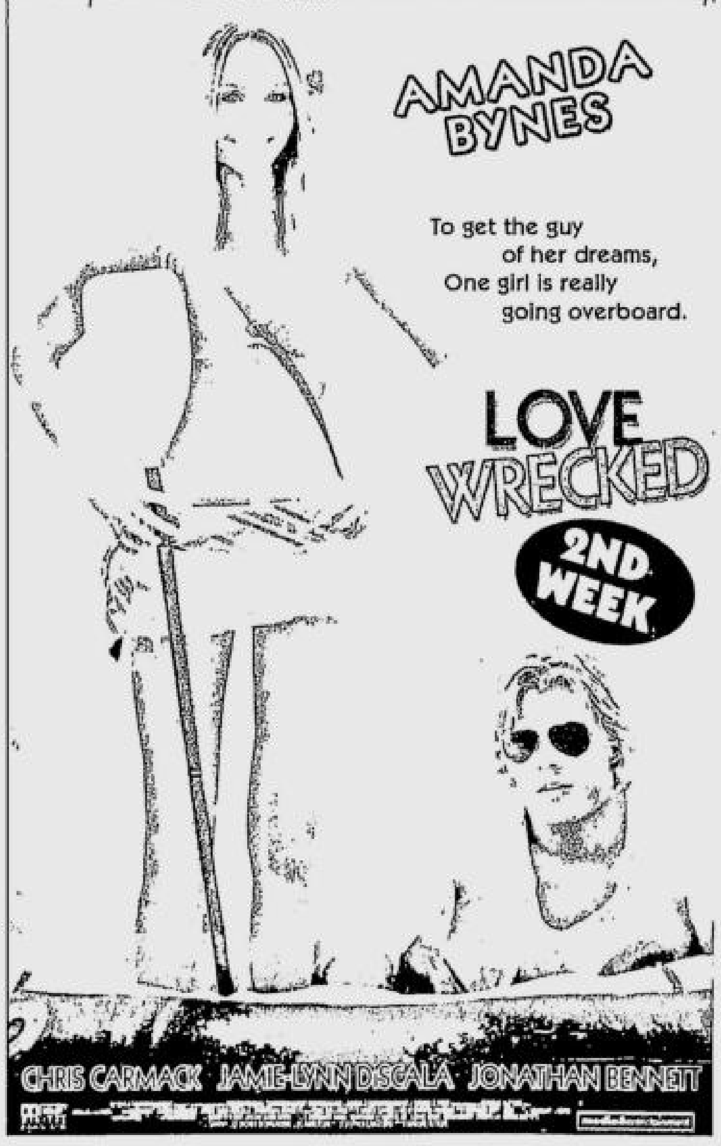


MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
The Funny Girl from She's the MAN is back in another Hilarious Romantic Comedy



John Estrada sports a new butt

From page A2-1

is first-time feature film director Jeff Tan, who earned the privilege to direct a full length movie after his stylish music videos for the likes of Gary V and Jay-R caught Regal Films producer Roselle Monteverde-Teo's attention. The movie is meant to be a reinvention of the White Lady urban legend. "Young blood *ang* director and most of the cast so expect a different approach in this horror film. The effects are out of this world!" proudly says the Chinese lady (Mother Lily) behind "White Lady."

Pure delite

Century Tuna's "A Night of Pure Delight" held at the M café of Ayala Museum brought the house down as the gorgeous Century superbods and models strut their stuff in a mini fashion show featuring the elegant designs of Kate Torralba. The launch was hosted by Bianca Valerio while DJ meister Wendell Garcia spun the chillin' sounds. Sitti Navarro charmed everyone with her version of Brazilian bossa nova. And for the culinary delights, it was Century Tuna Lite in all its scrumptious variations served ala finger food—guilt-free because it's the perfect food for figure-conscious people.

New health show

Catch "OK kay Doc" on Saturdays, 8 a.m. on QTV 11. It focuses on the prevention of common and threatening illnesses as well as facts on diet and fitness. Hosted by comedienne Giselle Sanchez, internist Dr. Rey Salinel and newest poster boy hunk Marco Alcaraz, the show will deliver clean living tips into your living room. The earlier you start to live clean, the later you will leave this world.

Personal

Endless thanks to my dear "Sister in Christ" Boy Abunda for making it Christmas in July. When God made you, He supersized your heart! Luvyah!

Thanks a mil to my good friend Marvin Agustin for the yummy treat at his Oyster Boy (Cubao). Your kindness is the best thing on your menu!

My gay son IC would like to thank Ms Elaine Aranyana for the red-carpet treatment she gave him at her heavenly Aranyana resort in Bohol. He stayed there with the rest of the cast of Cesar Montano's comedy film "Reunion," where he plays his dream role as a guy. Thanks, Buboy, for being such a great mentor to IC.

For feedback, e-mail wateringholeshangri-la@yahoo.com.

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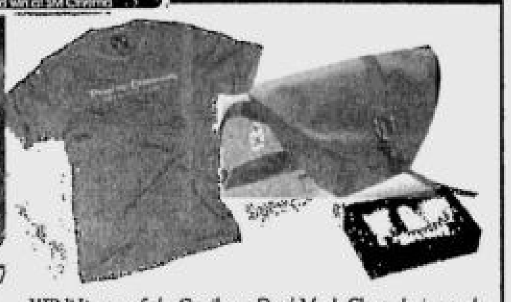
JOHNNY DEPP
ORLANDO BLOOM
KEIRA KNIGHTLEY
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2006



WIN! Pirates of the Carribean: Dead Man's Chest playing cards, shirts and bags from Buena Vista International by simply answering this question from the movie:

What is the name of Will Turner's father?

Send in your answers together with your particulars at movieaddicts_smcinema@yahoo.com or at your nearest SM Cinema branch. Answer must be correct in order to qualify. Multiple entries received will only be counted as a single entry. Ten (10) lucky winners will be chosen from all the entries received. Deadline for submission of entries is on July 25, 2006.

NOW SHOWING

Distributed by BUENA VISTA INTERNATIONAL

METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA
SAN MIGUEL Coca-Cola IMAX THEATRE
SUPERMAN RETURNS
9:00 12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00 12:00MN
PREMIERE CINEMA
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
CENTERSTAGE
RESERVED
SUPERMAN RETURNS
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
LOVEWRECKED
SCARY MOVIE 4
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
I WANNA BE HAPPY

THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
CINEMA 2
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM NORTH EDSA
SUPERMAN RETURNS
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
LOVEWRECKED
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
I WANNA BE HAPPY
INITIAL D
SUPERMAN RETURNS
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM CITY BICUTAN
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
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PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
SUPERMAN RETURNS

SM MEGACINEMA
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
SCARY MOVIE 4
SUPERMAN RETURNS
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
LAKE HOUSE
THE NUN
I WANNA BE HAPPY
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LOVEWRECKED
BATAS MILITAR

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
SUPERMAN RETURNS
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
SUPERMAN RETURNS
LOVEWRECKED
INITIAL D
BATAS MILITAR
I WANNA BE HAPPY
THE NUN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
INITIAL D
SCARY MOVIE 4
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
I WANNA BE HAPPY
SUPERMAN RETURNS
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FAST AND FURIOUS 3
THE NUN
SUPERMAN RETURNS
BATAS MILITAR

SM CITY DASMARINAS
SUPERMAN RETURNS
BATAS MILITAR
I WANNA BE HAPPY
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM CITY STA. MESA
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SUPERMAN RETURNS
SUPERMAN RETURNS
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SCARY MOVIE 4
BATAS MILITAR

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THE NUN
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
SUPERMAN RETURNS
LOVEWRECKED
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
BATAS MILITAR
LAKE HOUSE
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
SCARY MOVIE 4
INITIAL D
I WANNA BE HAPPY

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
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PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
SUPERMAN RETURNS
SUPERMAN RETURNS
LOVEWRECKED
I WANNA BE HAPPY

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
SUPERMAN RETURNS
SUPERMAN RETURNS

SM CITY SUCAT
I WANNA BE HAPPY
SUPERMAN RETURNS
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PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
I WANNA BE HAPPY
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SUPERMAN RETURNS

SM CITY BACOOR
BATAS MILITAR
THE NUN
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SUPERMAN RETURNS
I WANNA BE HAPPY
LOVEWRECKED
INITIAL D

SM CITY BATANGAS
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
I WANNA BE HAPPY
SUPERMAN RETURNS
LAKE HOUSE

SM CITY LUCENA
SUPERMAN RETURNS
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
AQUAMARINE
FAST AND FURIOUS 3

SM CITY CLARK
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
I WANNA BE HAPPY
BATAS MILITAR
SUPERMAN RETURNS

SM CITY PAMPANGA
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BATAS MILITAR
SUPERMAN RETURNS
I WANNA BE HAPPY

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO
SUPERMAN RETURNS
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BATAS MILITAR
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM CITY STA. ROSA
BATAS MILITAR
I WANNA BE HAPPY
SUPERMAN RETURNS
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

VISAYAS, MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
CHAOS
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
SUPERMAN RETURNS
TAKE THE LEAD
I WANNA BE HAPPY
THE NUN
SUPERMAN RETURNS
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM CITY ILOILO
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FAST AND FURIOUS 3
SUPERMAN RETURN
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
RESERVED
THE NUN

SM CITY DAVAO
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
THE NUN
I WANNA BE HAPPY
FAST AND FURIOUS
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
SUPERMAN RETURN

SM CITY CAGAYAN
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
SUPERMAN RETURN
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

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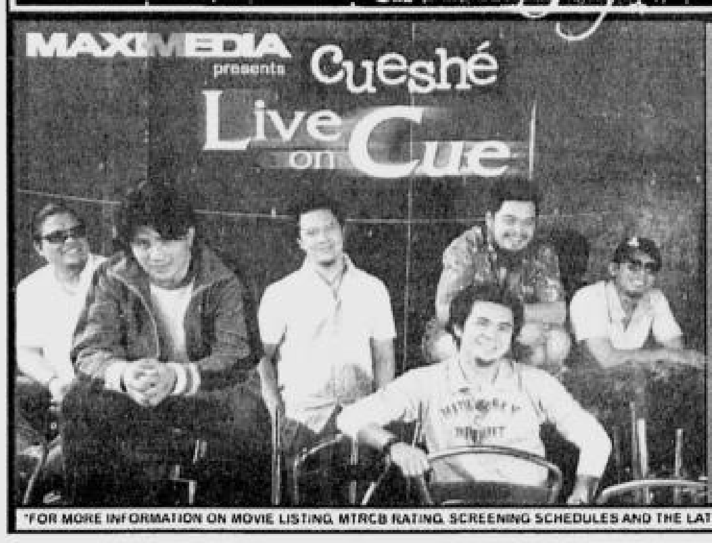

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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2 • THX
12:00 3:10 6.20 9:30
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2:10 5:20 8:30
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
11:30 2:40 5:50 9:00
5 SUPERMAN RETURNS
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00
6 LAKE HOUSE
12:00 2:10 4:20
7 PIRATE SOF THE CARRIBEAN 2
1:40 4:50 8:00
8 I WANNA BE HAPPY
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
9 LOVE WRECKED
1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50
10 SEE NO EVIL
1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2 10:20 1:15 4:10 7:05 10:00
2 BATAS MILITAR 12:30 2:50
SEE NO EVIL 6:00 7:55 9:50
3 I WANNA BE HAPPY
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
12:20 3:15 6:10 9:05
5 SUPERMAN RETURNS
10.30 1:20 4:10 7:00 9:50
6 LOVE WRECKED
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
7 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
11:20 2:15 5:10 8:05

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 LOVE WRECKED
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
3:00 6:00 9:00
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
12:20 3:20 6:20 9:15
5 SEE NO EVIL
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
6 BATAS MILITAR 1:00 3:00
PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2 2:00 5:00
7 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
11:00 2:00 5:00 8:00
8 I WANNA BE HAPPY
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:40 9:00

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
3 I WANNA BE HAPPY
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
5 INITIAL D

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 LOVE WRECKED

WRESTLING SUPERSTAR KANE
SEE NO EVIL
LET'S GET READY TO SCREEEAM!

WWE Superstar KANE is the new name in TERROR
"SEE NO EVIL"

Kane plays the Henchman from Hell Jacob Goodnight. With a rusty steel plate screwed into his skull and razor-sharp fingernails that pluck out his victim's eyes, Jacob is a reclusive psychopath holed up in the long-abandoned and rotting Blackwell Hotel. Eight juvenile delinquents then show up at the run-down hotel for community service duty along with the cop who put a bullet in Jacob's head four years ago. Jacob hunts them down using a meat hook and chain through a maze of broken-down hallways and rooms. When one of their own is kidnapped by Jacob and her fate uncertain, the remaining delinquents must fight this indestructible force of nature with a violent score to settle.

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2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SEE NO EVIL
4 I WANNA BE HAPPY

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1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 I WANNA BE HAPPY
3 LAKE HOUSE
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

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2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
3 BATAS MILITAR
4 I WANNA BE HAPPY

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1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 I WANNA BE HAPPY
3 BATAS MILITAR
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

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1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 BATAS MILITAR
3 I WANNA BE HAPPY
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2

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1 TAKE THE LEAD
2 BATAS MILITAR
3 I WANNA BE HAPPY
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2

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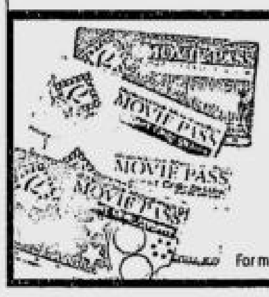
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
4 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
5 LAKE HOUSE
6 SEE NO EVIL

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 THE NUN
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 LAKE HOUSE



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CALLALILY: from left, Tatsi Jamnaque (guitar), Lemuel Belaro (drums), Alden Acosta (guitar), Kean Cipriano (vocals) and Aaron Ricafrente (bass).

SOUTH BORDER

Album sales down in the US

LOS ANGELES—US ALBUM SALES WERE down 4.2 percent in the first half of the year, but sales of music downloaded online soared 77 percent, according to industry figures.

Total sales of albums across different formats — CDs, digital albums, cassette and others — stood at 270.6 million between Jan. 2 and July 2, compared to 282.6 million in the same period last year, according to Nielsen SoundScan figures released Friday.

The top-selling album so far this year is a soundtrack inspired by the Disney Channel movie "High School Musical," which has sold more than 2.6 million units.

Albums by Rascal Flatts, James Blunt, Mary J. Blige and Carrie Underwood round out the top five.

The decline reflects in part a dearth of big hits compared to the same period in 2005, which saw Mariah Carey and rapper 50 Cent each release multi-platinum sellers. *AP*

SPIN CITY

Two in one

SONY BMG Music Entertainment releases "The 2 in 1 Series"—a two disc compilation of top OPM artists that soared the industry into greater heights in the '90s.

The collection gathers the best OPM acts of powerhouse labels Sony and BMG.

It includes selections from Wolfgang's "Semenelin" and "Serve In Silence" albums, Razorback's "Beggar's Moon" and "Two Star," Kitchie Nadal and Melody del Mundo's "Birthday" and "One Million Stories for Mojofly" and Sugar Hiccup's "Oracle" and "Womb."

Also Yano's "Yano" and "Tara." We just listened again to this group's hits of over a decade ago—including "Kumusta Na?," "Tsinelas," "Banal na Aso, Santong Kabayo," "Trapo"—and marveled at how relevant they still are to these times. Consider such familiar lines as, "Trapo ka kasi ... di na binoboto, pero nananalo."

Natatawa ako, hi-hi-hi-hi.

Incidentally, we listened on a stormy day when the lights went out. *E kasi walang koryente ... wala, wala, wala.*

That was fun.

RACHELLE Ann Go

New single

RACHELLE Ann Go's new single is a light, bittersweet ballad entitled "Bakit," composed by actor-turned-musician Chuckie Dreyfus.

The cut from her second album, "I Care" is Rachelle's first Tagalog single.

Her first single from the album is "If You Walk Away," produced by Christian de Walden and Carlo Nasi.

All-hit album

AFTER THE Warner Music and Sony BMG multi-artist compilation "Big" comes the sequel "Bigger," which puts together 19 hits.

"Bigger" opens with Madonna's "Hung Up" from her dance album "Confessions on a Dance Floor" and Mariah Carey's "It's Like That" from her multi-platinum "Emancipation of Mimi."

Other hitmakers featured in the album are Madonna, Mariah Carey, Pussycat Dolls, Green Day, Destiny's Child, Britney Spears, Michael Buble, Westlife, Usher and Alicia Keys.

Pinoy house track

GOOD House Music, which compiles 15 club hits from international artists, has an interesting single called "O Ano?," a local remix featuring dialogue excerpts from Dindo Fernando and Gloria Diaz in the classic '70s Danny Zialcita movie "Nagalit Ang Buwan Sa Haba Ng Gabi."

Produced by Warner Music Philippines, the "Pinoy house track" is supported by a hilarious music video starring funny man Jojo Alejar doing his famous dance antics while walking the streets of Manila.

Callalily's debut

CALLALILY'S debut album "Destination XYZ" will soon be in record stores nationwide. The carrier single is "Stars."

Produced by 6cyclemind guitarist Rye Sarmiento, the album also includes the songs "Pasan," "Take My Hand," "Magbalik," "Yakap," "Kung Kaya Ko Lang," "Takipsilim," "Sanctuary," "Cool Off," "Dream," "Insane" and "The Final Song."

The band is composed of Kean Cipriano on vocals, Aaron Paul Ricafrente on bass, Tatsi Jamnaque on guitars, Alden Acosta on guitars and Lemuel Belaro on drums.

Nina says 'I Do'

THE R&B flavored "I Do," the first single from Nina's self-titled studio album under Warner Music Philippines, had a simultaneous radio premiere last week. It was played in Magic 89.9, 99.5RT, Mellow 94.7, Wave 89.1, RX 93.1, 97.1 WLS, Mix FM Davao, UR97 Davao, Monster Radio Davao, Killerbee Davao, Killerbee Cebu, Killerbee Bacolod, Killerbee Cagayan de Oro, and Monster Radio Cebu.

The album will be available in music stores on Aug. 15.

South Border in Europe

SOUTH Border recently came back to Manila from a successul tour of the United States, where they performed in mainstream clubs on both' the East and West Coasts.

On the West Coast, they entertained SRO crowds at the Viper Room on Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood; the Armory in San Diego; the South San Francisco Auditorium; The Gig on Melrose Avenue, Hollywood; Rhythm Lounge at downtown Long Beach; and Knitting Factory, also in Hollywood.

On the East Coast, they played at the Roxy Club in New York; The Lisner Auditorium in Washington, DC, Pickwick Theater at Park Ridge, Illinois; and Maydenbauer Center in Bellevue, Washington.

The group left again to perform at the Ulster Hall in Belfast on July 15, and at the Lampton Park in Hounslow, London on July 16 for the "22nd Barrio Fiesta sa London."

They will be back in the country in August, but only for a while. In September, they proceed to Australia to play at Oz—and then back to the US for more gigs.

OPENS TOMORROW
Nina Siemaszko
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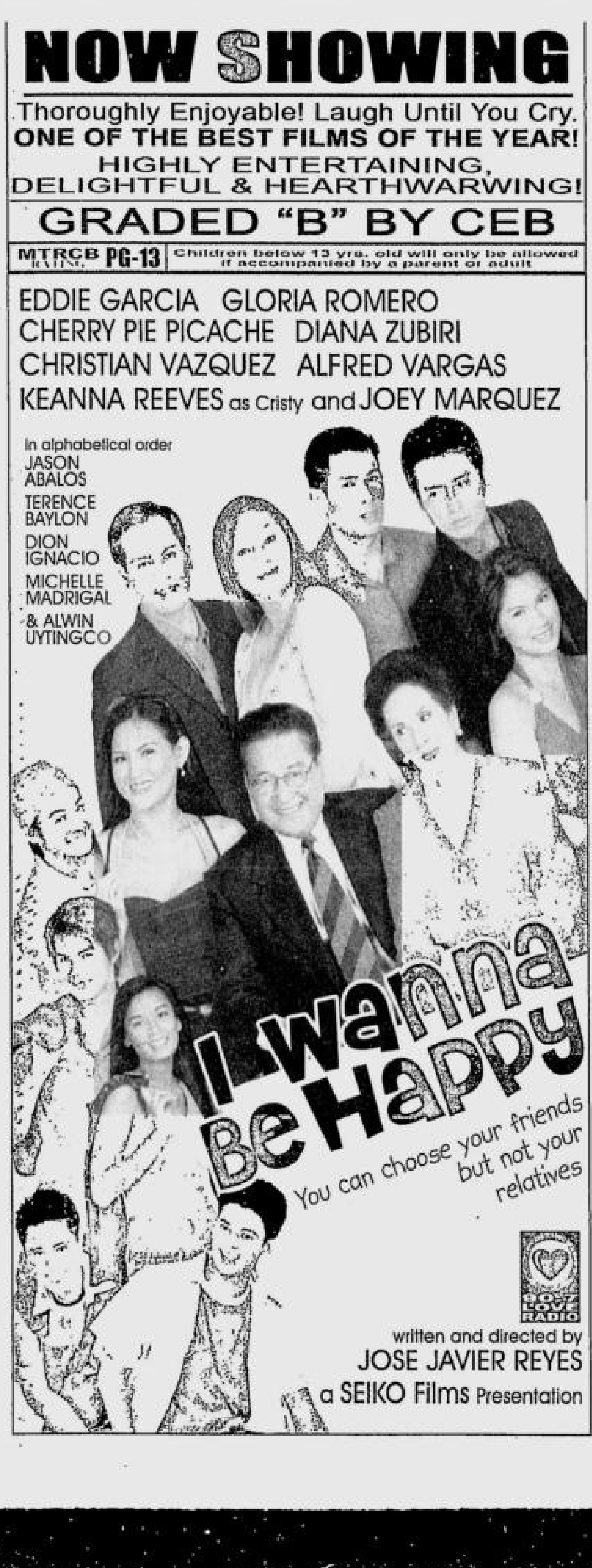
Wild Orchid 2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in alphabetical order
JASON ABALOS
TERENCE BAYLON
DION IGNACIO
MICHELLE MADRIGAL
& ALWIN UYTINGCO
I wanna Be Happy
You can choose your friends but not your relatives
LOVE RADIO
written and directed by
JOSE JAVIER REYES
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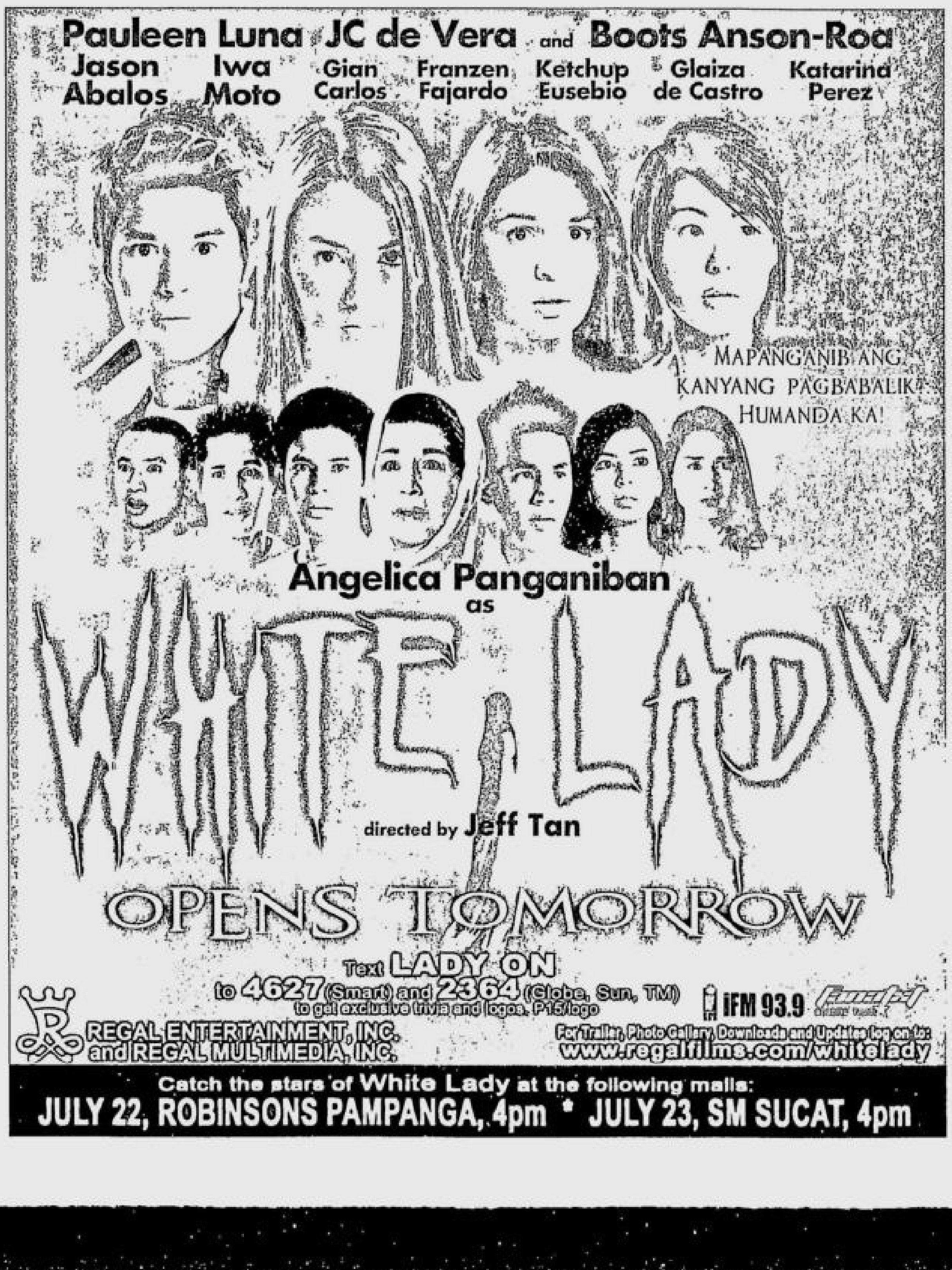
Pauleen Luna JC de Vera and Boots Anson-Roa
Jason Abalos
Iwa Moto
Gian Carlos
Franzen Fajardo
Ketchup Eusebio
Glaiza de Castro
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Oil, gold, dollar surge on Mideast crisis

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IN THIS ISSUE

Gov't posts P12.7-B budget surplus /B4

Dealers say crude price set to break $80/barrel

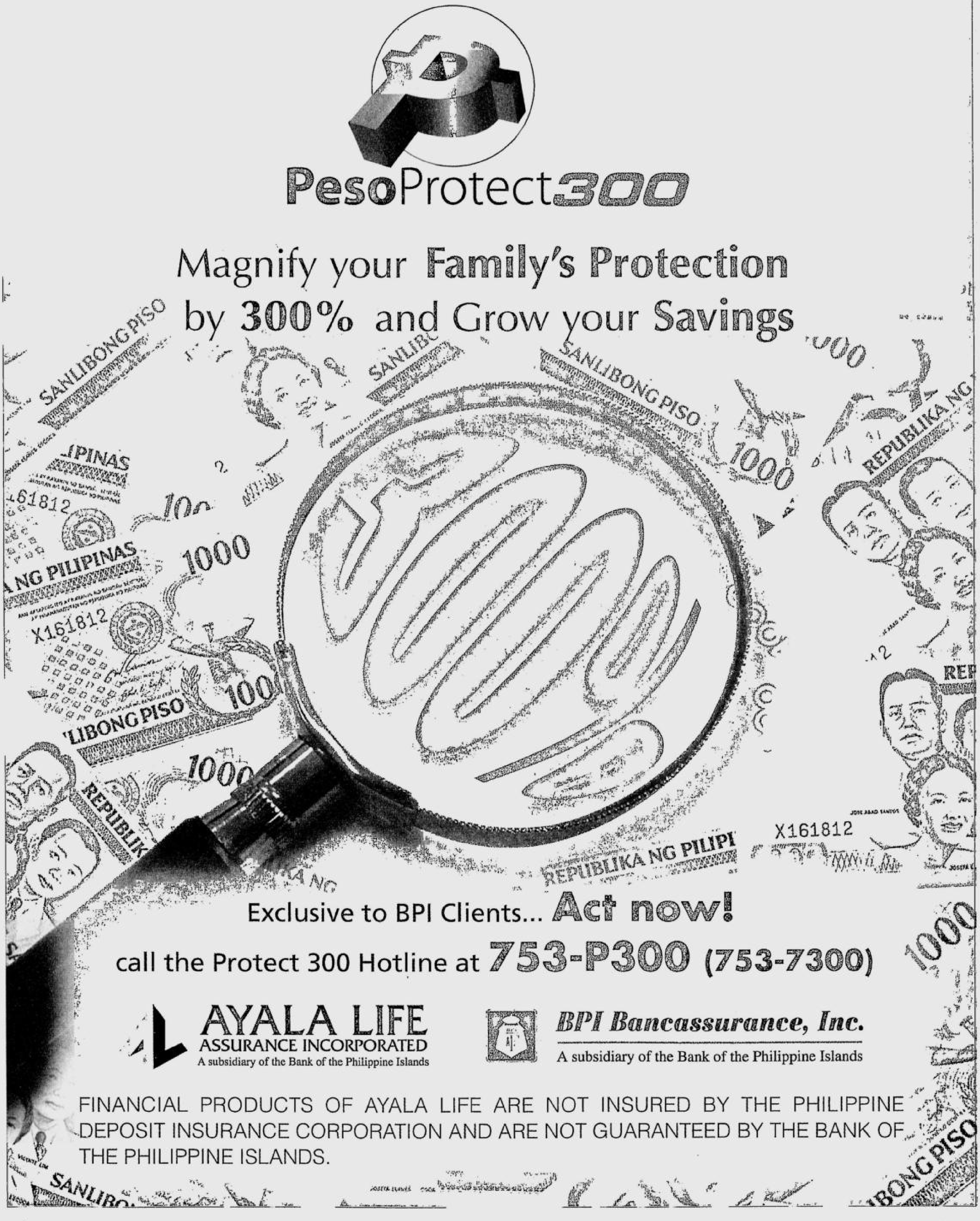
GOLD PRICES HIT AN EIGHT-WEEK PEAK YESTERDAY, oil futures traded near record highs, the dollar advanced against the yen and euro, and stock markets plummeted as investors sought safe-havens on escalating conflict in the Middle East.

"Safe-haven flows are driving the market and with a further escalation of violence in the Middle East, people are thinking that this is likely to take center stage for markets," said Jan Lambregts, head of research, Asia, at Rabobank in Singapore.

In Asia, the MSCI index of major Asian stocks outside of Japan fell 1.2 percent.

European stocks are likely to slip with spread betters in London calling Britain's FTSE 100, France's CAC 40

OIL/B2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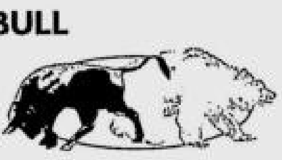
All-out war in the Middle East

MR. BEARBULL



Ron Nathan

MY WIFE TOLD ME SHE WAS SPENDING two hours in the gym every day and I was pleased. That is until I discovered the instructor's name was Jim.

An 80-year old man said to his wife, "I am going to take these new Viagra pills." His 79-year old wife got out of her rocking chair and said, "If you are going to the doctor, then I am coming too. If you are going to use that rusty old thing, I am going to get a tetanus shot."

* * *

As a result of the ever-increasing level of violence in the Middle East, stock markets globally have suffered one of their worst declines since the 9/11 attack. Europe and Asian markets have fallen by more than the Dow and the Shanghai stock market tumbled 4 percent in a single day. However, this was due to fears that a spate of IPOs would suck capital out of the system.

The main impact has been to send commodity prices to new peaks, the most important of which is oil, now at $78 a barrel. As Japan, China and most European countries import nearly all their oil, the initial effect will be to increase inflation pressure on their economies. Last month, 16 countries raised bank rates to combat inflation.

The secondary effect will be to slow growth in the second half of the year and the first half of 2007. So although, so far U.S. companies reported satisfactory results for the second quarter, there is likely to be deterioration in the rate of growth from double digit to high single digit in the third and fourth quarters.

Fed Chair Bernanke's problems have now got worse. With wages rising 3.6 percent year-on-year, compared to an inflation target of 2 percent he will have to raise rates again next month and probably beyond. If you look at the history of the U.S. economy, you will see that every time rates have been hiked to 6 percent, a recession has followed. Some were fairly short but one-lasted three years so he will try to avoid reaching that figure, if he can.

All this is very bearish and last Thursday, I wrote in my daily newsletter that with the risk factor at 98, investors should not be in the market. This refers only to Philippine stocks, as I am unable to apply this indicator to other countries or to commodities due to the available data being in a format I cannot use.

So far, the local market has held up surprisingly well. This has been due to net foreign buying for the nine trading days preceding July 14. Last Friday and yesterday, foreign funds became net sellers of TEL and this caused a big fall in the price of the stock. Last week, the massive outflow of funds ($16 billion) from emerging markets ceased and $1 billion was invested. The fate of Asian markets lies with the decision of overseas fund managers.

All this suggests that markets around the world will keep falling for the next month but I think this is unlikely unless oil prices rise above $85 a barrel. At present, the war between Israel and Lebanon dominates news reports from CNN and BBC but as the fighting continues in the weeks ahead, people will get used to it. They will come to regard it as a local war and pay less attention to it. This is what has happened in Baghdad where car bombs kill scores of people every day. It is no longer news, it is accepted as normal.

I have no confidence in the ability of group of nations to achieve anything. Decades ago, there was the League of Nations. It proved to be totally ineffective and was eventually abolished and replaced by the United Nations. After a great deal of negotiation, the Security Council passed a unanimous 15-0 resolution condemning North Korea for testing missiles. Within 45 minutes, the spokesman for North Korea stated that the resolution was rejected and missile tests will continue.

As for the G8, President Bush tried to lecture President Putin on democracy and was sharply rebuffed. Russia was denied membership of the World Trade Organization. As for the Israel-Lebanon war, the U.S. and Germany support Israel, nobody supports Hezbollah but President Putin accused Israel of using excessive force. All that will result will be a plea to both sides to show restraint, a plea that both sides will ignore.

The most serious problem is Iran, which continues to produce enriched uranium from which atomic bombs can be made. The U.S. and its allies want to impose sanctions but Russia and China will veto such a move because they want to get a stake in Iran's oil. Russia found a perfect solution. It would process the uranium for Iran but would keep the end product, enriched uranium. This offer was approved by all five members but Iran rejected it, thereby showing its true warlike intentions.

Iran has stated several times that it intends to wipe Israel off the face of the earth. In 1990, Israel attacked its nuclear plant and set back its program 10 years. The rest of the world breathed a sigh of relief but now Iran is thought to be only a few years away from producing an atomic bomb and delivering it to any part of the Middle East.

If Iran does not agree to Russia's proposal, I foresee that within five years. Israel, with the assistance of the U.S., will attack Iran, possibly with atomic weapons. The resulting conflagrations will send oil above $100 and gold above $1,000. As for stock markets, the impact will be traumatic. The Security Council has got to be firm or else the above scenario is inevitable.

Returning to the local markets, PLDT is still diversifying and has bought SPI Technologies Inc., a Manila-based back-office service provider for $135 million. The acquisition will allow PLDT to grow its global outsourcing and offshoring business. SPI employs 6,500 people providing publishing, legal transcription and other services to 150 companies in the Philippines, India, China and Vietnam, a useful acquisition.

Eleven companies have expressed an interest in acquiring the government's stake in water utility firm Maynilad Water Services. Local firms MWC and DMC will be among the bidders.

Remittances in May totaled $1.14 billion, 14.8-percent higher than last year and 27-percent higher than last month. Without these remittances, the economy would be in a sorry state and the peso rate much higher. The remittances cover the trade deficit.

On a lighter note, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts will open stores in the Philippines in an effort to promote obesity and heart disease. The Mayon Volcano is again spewing mayonnaise.

Comments at mrbearbull@hotmail.com

Oil, gold, dollar surge on Mideast crisis

From page B1

and Germany's DAX indexes 16-26 points lower at the start of trading.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng stock index fell for the third straight day, shedding almost 1 percent to a two-week low.

Financial markets in Japan and South Korea were closed for holidays.

With no diplomatic initiative in sight to end the fighting, analysts said the conflict could spread through the Middle East to include Iran and Syria and roil a region that supplies almost a third of the world's crude oil.

"It's geopolitics at the fore," said Justin Smirk, senior economist at Westpac in Sydney. "Israel has been the key story over the weekend, with oil investors keenly watching supply-side risk should the conflict look like expanding.

Oil prices have climbed almost 12 percent in the past month and have nearly doubled in the past two years, partly because of conflicts in key producers such as Iraq and Nigeria and more recently because of security concerns over Iran and North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

These have occurred at a time when demand is soaring in rapidly developing economies such as China and India.

Light, sweet crude for August delivery gained 55 cents to $77.58 a barrel in Asian electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange, mid-afternoon in Singapore.

The contract reached an intraday record of $78.40 a barrel Friday before settling at an all-time closing high of $77.03.

$80/barrel barrier

Dealers said oil looked set to break the $80 barrier, with some even talking about the possibility of $100 as the Group of Eight (G8) major powers warned Sunday of "serious" challenges posed by rising crude prices.

"We have to deal with serious and linked challenges such as high and volatile oil prices," the G8 leaders said in a statement adopted at their summit in Saint Petersburg, Russia.

"Oil prices are very sensitive to tensions in the Middle East, the source of more than a fifth of world oil output," Sucden analyst Michael Davies said.

Adjusted for inflation, current oil prices still remain below levels reached after the 1979 Iranian revolution of about $85 in today's money but are getting perilously close to the level.

"On top of that, demand usually slows on high oil prices, but that doesn't seem to be the case now," Gorey said.

"There are a lot of things going on right now that could increase oil prices, " he said.

Gold rush

As rising oil prices triggered inflationary pressures worldwide, nervous investors flocked to gold and other assets that are traditionally seen as a shield against wealth erosion caused by accelerating prices.

Spot gold prices rose yesterday to $675 an ounce, their highest level since the middle of May.

Gold has rebounded after plunging from a record high of $730 in May to a low of $543 in June.

"It looks like gold is certainly going to test higher at some point, unless it calms down which looks very unlikely. We don't seem to have any rationality when it comes to dealing with the Middle East," said Darren Heathcote, head of trading at Investec Australia in Sydney.

The escalating violence in the Middle East and rising inflationary pressures--which have caused the US Federal Reserve to raise its key interest rate 17 times over the past two years—have also helped the dollar, the world's most liquid currency.

The dollar rose as high as 116.39 yen yesterday, its highest level in just over two weeks. The euro weakened to about $1.2622, its lowest level since June 29.

"The escalation of violence in the Middle East over the weekend should continue to see the US dollar supported as the week gets underway," said Tony Morriss, a senior currency strategist at ANZ Investment Bank.

On the local front, share prices closed down 1.58 percent yesterday, hitting a two-week low on growing concerns that record high oil prices will slow economic growth, dealers said.

They said the downside was supported, however, after news of a budget surplus for a third consecutive month in June encouraged some bargain hunting. (See story on page B4)

Local stocks slide

The composite index lost 34.94 points at 2,175.21 after trading between 2,151.26 and 2,210.15. Monday's close was the lowest finish since June 29, when the index ended at 2,084.62. Volume was 1.28 billion shares worth P1.35 billion.

Losers outnumbered gainers 54 to 23, with 48 stocks unchanged. *Reuters, AFP*

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 17, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31.5	31.5	31	31	687,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48.5	48.5	47.5	48.5	1,586,100
China Banking Corp.	860	860	860	860	130
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	300
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	620,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	73	73	72.5	72.5	228,500
International Exch. Bank	42	42	42	42	31,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34.5	34.5	34	34.5	255,300
Philippine National Bank	33	33	33	33	26,000
Phil. Savings Bank	38.5	39	38.5	39	5,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	18.5	18.5	18	18	57,500
Security Bank Corp.	45	45.5	45	45.5	117,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	43	43	43	43	5,000
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	1.64	1.72	1.64	1.7	1,533,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	31	31	31	31	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1605	1605	1605	1605	780
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	10,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2000	2020	2000	2020	880
Ivantage Corp.	1.22	1.26	1.22	1.24	1,385,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	44.5	44.5	43.5	44	33,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	44	45	44	45	677,800
Manila Electric Co. A	14.75	14.75	14.5	14.75	19,000
Manila Electric Co. B	23.75	24	23.25	24	1,524,000
Manila Water Co. Inc.	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.5	4,473,000
Petron Corp.	3.75	3.8	3.7	3.75	4,127,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	50,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	3	3	6,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23.25	23.5	23.25	23.5	20,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	31.5	31.5	30.5	31	1,049,800
Pancake House Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	130,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3	3.05	2.9	3.05	936,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65.5	66	65.5	66	43,200
San Miguel Corp. B	70.5	70.5	70	70.5	204,900
Universal Robina Corp.	19.25	19.5	19.25	19.5	704,700
Vitarich Corp	0.2	0.2	0.195	0.195	240,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	1,260,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.44	1.46	638,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.5	4.55	4.5	4.55	74,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.6	20,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.24	1.28	1.24	1.28	119,000
CHEMICALS					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1	1	1	1	520,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	160,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.08	0.085	0.08	0.08	3,300,000
Macondray Plastics Inc.	3	3	3	3	20,000
Picop Resources Inc	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	1,000,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	1,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	1,000,000
Ayala Corp.	387.5	387.5	370	382.5	104,440
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	402,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.024	0.023	0.024	1,300,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.8	1.82	1.78	1.8	867,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	5,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.91	0.91	0.9	0.9	570,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	2,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	21,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.06	3,974,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	1,035,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.6	2.6	50,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.1	6	6.1	141,000
Jolliville Holdings Corp.	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	10,000
Pacifica	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	2,000,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	50,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	200,000
SM Investments Corp.	209	213	209	212	32,450
South China Resources Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	100,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	12	12.25	12	12.25	15,775,300
Belle Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	3,881,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,050,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.1	2.16	2.1	2.16	235,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.44	0.45	5,970,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.24	1.28	1.24	1.28	6,600,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	10,000
Interport Res.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	5,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.36	1.38	13,873,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.205	2,990,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	100
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc	7.6	7.6	7.4	7.4	4,427,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc	0.06	0.065	0.06	0.065	1,000,000
SERVICE,					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	16	16	16	16	1,800
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.2	1.2	60,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.2	1.22	1.16	1.22	1,429,000
Globe Telecom Inc	940	950	925	945	26,100
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.3	3.4	3.2	3.4	1,206,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1850	1850	1790	1805	158,650
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.17	18,870,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	1,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.049	4,400,000
Philweb Corp.	0.031	0.032	0.031	0.032	194,600,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	330,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	14	14.25	14	14.25	261,200
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	10,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.26	1.36	1.26	1.36	148,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.195	0.195	1,450,000
EDUCATION					
Centro Escolar University	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	5,000
iPeople Inc.	3	3.1	3	3.1	294,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.04	2.1	2	2.1	208,000
Paxys Inc.	10.75	10.75	10.5	10.75	19,600
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	3.4	3.6	3.3	3.6	1,276,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	3.45	3.65	3.35	3.6	1,078,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	45,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.6	7.6	7.4	7.6	989,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.3	0.3	0.28	0.3	16,070,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.024	0.025	0.024	0.024	224,600,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	130,600,000
Omico Corp.	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.008	268,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	4.1	4.1	4	4.05	2,819,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	4.15	4.15	4	4.05	7,230,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26.5	27	26.5	27	105,800
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.37	0.37	0.35	0.37	1,380,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	500,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	380,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	142,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	23,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.2	1.24	1.18	1.22	439,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.2	1.24	1.2	1.24	1,633,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	16.5	16.75	16	16.75	168,300
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,300
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	16	16.25	16	16.25	132,900

DISCLOSURES

WATERFRONT Phils., Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on August 5, 10 a.m. at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu City. Stockholders of record as of July 10 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

THE PHILODRILL Corp. has disclosed their agreement to the sale of 107,072,871 shares of Edsa Properties Holdings, Inc. to Anglo Philippine Holdings Corp. at P1.00 apiece.

* * *

LUCIO L. Co, Robert Y. Cokeng, Leonardo B. Dayao, Eduardo F. Hernandez, Ponciano K. Mathay, Angel Uy Tan and Reyno C. Salom have been elected directors of **Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.** on July 14.

Compiled by Kate Pedroso, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

July 18, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.790514	1.000000	52.4560
Japan	Yen	0.006806	0.008610	0.4516
United Kingdom	Pound	1.453202	1.838300	96.4299
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101666	0.128607	6.7462
Switzerland	Franc	0.640715	0.810504	42.5158
Canada	Dollar	0.700624	0.886289	46.4912
Singapore	Dollar	0.497554	0.629406	33.0161
Australia	Dollar	0.595266	0.753012	39.5000
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.097021	2.652731	139.1517
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.210787	0.266645	13.9871
Brunei	Dollar	0.495993	0.627431	32.9125
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000109	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.020787	0.026295	1.3793
UAE	Dirham	0.215228	0.272264	14.2819
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.265000	66.3568
Argentina	Peso	0.256452	0.324412	17.0174
Brazil	Real	0.356392	0.450836	23.6491
Denmark	Kroner	0.134070	0.169598	8.8964
India	Rupee	0.017100	0.021631	1.1347
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215399	0.272480	14.2932
Mexico	New Peso	0.072003	0.091084	4.7779
New Zealand	Dollar	0.489816	0.619617	32.5026
Norway	Kroner	0.126535	0.160067	8.3965
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013114	0.016589	0.8702
South Africa	Rand	0.109666	0.138727	7.2771
Korea	Won	0.000829	0.001049	0.0550
Sweden	Kroner	0.108630	0.137417	7.2083
Syria	Pound	0.015228	0.019264	1.0105
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024199	0.030612	1.6058
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000368	0.000466	0.0244

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SOUTH KOREA'S COMMITMENT

Asean + 3 rice reserve seen hitting 500,000MT

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE EMERGENCY RICE RESERVE now maintained by the Association of South East Asian Nations plus China, Japan and South Korea, also known as the Asean + 3, is expected to increase to about 500,000 metric tons this year, a government official said Friday.

The current East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve was placed at 337,000 tons, boosted by commitment from Japan to contribute 250,000 MT. Another 150,000 metric tons would be added soon by the South Korean government, said National Food Administrator Gregorio Tan.

South Korea is expected to firm up its commitment in a meeting of the Asean +3 in October this year, said Tan, who is in charge of the East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve.

The reserve currently stands at 337,000 tons following a commitment made by Japan last year to contribute 250,000 tons.

Member countries of the Asean+3 are holding consultations aimed at determining their shares in the emergency reserve.

The pilot implementation of the emergency reserve started in January last year and will end in 2007. Agriculture ministers of member-countries are expected to make the program permanent, he added.

The rice reserve is intended for use in the region during calamities.

Asean is composed of Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar.

PROGRAM still in pilot stage but the region is expected to make it permanent

Napocor keeps one-day power sale scheme

By Abigail L. Ho

NATIONAL POWER CORP. HAS assured its customers that it had no plans of scrapping its one-day power sales (ODPS) program and that it would even improve the scheme to better serve power buyers.

In a statement issued yesterday, Napocor president Cyril del Callar said certain revisions were now being made to the ODPS, including "a commitment to guarantee a firm three-day price for (the electricity) quantities that will be bid out" through the scheme.

"Through this three-day firm price guarantee, Napocor will thereby assume the generator's risk, which will hopefully prevent any recurrence of sudden suspensions of the ODPS program in the future," he said.

Under the ODPS scheme, Napocor sells its excess capacity through an online, daily public bidding.

Napocor customers, particularly those with self-generation capacity of at least 1 megawatt (MW), can buy their power requirements through the scheme to avail themselves of lower rates.

Many of the country's big power users tap the ODPS system for their power needs.

The program was twice suspended in May and June, prompting the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Federation of Philippine Industries to call for a more reliable system in implementing the scheme.

PCCI president Donald Dee had said that sudden cancellation of the discounted electricity sale had adverse impact on power-intensive industries such as cement and steel manufacturing, including additional costs of at least P20 million on each occasion.

Del Callar said the program was suspended earlier due to lack of power reserves.

"We wish to stress that the ODPS program is offered on an as-available basis only. This means Napocor can only sell the capacity in excess of the 13.1-percent reserve requirement (of the system peak demand) specified by the Philippine Grid Code," he said.

He said that when the ODPS transactions were cancelled, power reserves fell below the requirement due to the tripping of four power facilities, including the 600-megavolt-ampere transformer bank of the San Jose Del Monte substation of the National Transmission Corp. in Bulacan, the 500-MW Quezon Power Philippines Ltd. coal-fired power plant in Quezon, Block B of the 1,200-MW Ilijan gas-fired power facility in Batangas, and Unit 2 of Napocor's 600-MW Calaca coal-fired power plant.

Anglophil buys 5% interest in Edsa Properties

INVESTMENT FIRM ANGLO-PHILIPPINE Holdings Corp. has acquired a 5-percent stake in property developer Edsa Properties Holdings Inc. (EPHI).

Anglophil president Christopher Gotanco said the company had purchased 214 million shares, equivalent to one board seat in EPHI. This will expand Anglophil's portfolio in commercial property development.

Anglophil currently owns 15.8 percent of North Triangle Depot Development Corp., the developer of "Trinoma," which is being built on the 16-hectare MRT-3 main depot in Quezon City.

Anglophil is headed by its chair and National Bookstore executive Alfredo Ramos.

National Bookstore owns 11.42 percent of EPHI. With Anglophil, the Ramos group will control 3 board seats, Gotanco said.

EPHI's biggest shareholder is Travel Aim Investment B.V. with 38.5 percent. Travel Aim is listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and controlled by the Kuok Group.

Yesterday, Anglophil said it bought 107 million EPHI shares at P1 a share from Philodrill.

Gotanco said Philodrill decided to sell its entire holdings in EPHI to focus on oil exploration. Philodrill is currently looking at participating in oil exploration activities in Northwest Palawan through funds raised from the sale of its interest in EPHI.

EPHI's subsidiaries include Shangri-La Plaza Corp. (78.72 percent-owned); Edsa Parking Services Inc. (100 percent), and The Shang Grand Tower Corp. (100 percent).

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Gov't posts ₱12.7-B budget surplus

Good revenue performance and tight spending kept 6-month gap below ceiling

By Michelle. V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT registered a budget surplus of P12.7 billion in June on account of good revenue collection and tight spending.

Data from the Department of Finance showed that revenue collection in June hit P81.3 billion while expenditure amounted to only P68.6 billion.

"Given the positive fiscal performance, we are confident to attain the target of posting a budget deficit (for the full year) of not more than P125 billion, or 2.1 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP)," Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said in a press briefing.

The surplus in June brought the government's fiscal position for the first six months of the year to a deficit of only P31.5 billion, way below the P90.4-billion ceiling set for the six-month period.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs—the government's major revenue earners—both surpassed their collection targets for the month of June. The BIR turned in P50.4 billion in tax collection, higher than its target of P46 billion, while the BOC generated P18.5 billion in duties versus its goal of P18.2 billion.

The BIR's higher-than-programmed tax collection in June reflected a recovery from the shortfalls incurred in the previous months. Internal revenue officials attributed the agency's performance in June to a host of revenue-enhancement measures, including tighter tax auditing schemes.

For the first six months, the BIR's total tax collection stood at P318.4 billion, only P2.8 billion short of the P321.2-billion target for the period.

The BOC, which has consistently met its monthly collection targets since the start of the year, collected P94.8 billion in duties in the first six months, higher than the P89.7-billion target.

"It was a very good performance. We are sticking to our goal of achieving a balanced budget position by 2008," National Treasurer Omar Cruz said in a separate press briefing.

The failure of Congress to pass the proposed 2006 national budget, while feared to cause a drag on the country's economic output, forced the government to restrain expenditures.

The P68.6-billion expenditure in June brought the government's total spending for the first six months to only P502.6 billion, or 10.1 percent lower than the P546.4 billion intended for the period under the supposed national budget for 2006.

Congress failed to pass the proposed P1.053-trillion 2006 budget before it went on a recess last month in view of a deadlock between the Lower House and the Senate on certain issues. While the former wanted the proposal intact, the upper chamber wanted to eliminate several infrastructure-related projects and cut the budget down to only P1.027 trillion.

Teves said the executive branch would still try to persuade legislators to approve the proposed budget when sessions resumed later this month. If this would not work, then the executive branch would ask Congress to approve a supplemental budget.

The finance chief said the Department of Budget and Management was looking at asking between P50 billion and P53 billion in supplemental budget from Congress.

He said the executive branch could ask for a supplemental budget if the government would generate revenue in excess of what was programmed for a period. The surpluses in the previous months would be enough reason to support the request for a supplemental budget, Teves said.

"We just have to explain to them (legislators) that the additional budget is important and that it is needed to build more farm-to-market roads and improve on educational and other services," Teves said.

T-bill rates up despite improved fiscal position

THE BELLWETHER 91-DAY TREASURY BILL rate inched up slightly to 6.078 percent yesterday despite the government's announcement of a budget surplus in June.

The new 91-day T-bill rate was 0.4 basis point higher than the 6.074 percent recorded in the auction two weeks ago.

"Investors are perplexed and there is hardly any trading in the secondary market for T-bills. Obviously, investors do not know what to do (in the wake of ongoing conflicts in the Middle East)," National Treasurer Omar Cruz said in a press briefing after the T-bill auction.

The rate for the 182-day bill rose by 0.9 basis point to fetch 6.994 percent, while the 364-day government security remained at its previous rate of 7.815 percent.

Fiscal authorities believed that the government's better-than-expected fiscal performance in June, which was announced yesterday morning in time for the opening of the financial market, should have helped bring down the T-bill rates.

Cruz, however, said that uncertainty overseas dampened the mood even of investors in local government securities.

Market concerns were blamed on conflicts between Lebanon and Israel. This development is expected to fuel another round of sharp increases in oil prices, given that the Middle East accounts for more than 30 percent of world's oil supply, and pull down global economic output.

Although banks sought for higher risk premiums on government securities, they still showed appetite for the debt instruments as indicated by the huge volume of bids.

Tenders for the 91-day bill reached P5.34 billion, higher than the government's debt offering of only P2 billion per T-bill tenor. Bids for the 182-day bill stood at P6.979 billion, while those for the one-year government security reached P3.935 billion.

The Bureau of the Treasury's auction committee accepted P2 billion worth of bids for the three-month bill and another P2 billion for the six-month bills. The committee accepted only P950 million worth of bids for the one-year bill to keep its rate from rising beyond secondary market levels.

In the meantime, Cruz announced that the BTr was set to cut down the amount of T-bill and Treasury bond offering in the second half of the year if the proposed 2006 budget would not be passed.

The legislature failed to pass the proposed P1.053-trillion 2006 budget before it went on a recess last month, but economic managers are still hoping it could get the proposed budget passed when sessions resume later this month.

Without a new budget for this year, the government would have to keep its spending within the levels under the 2005 budget program. The 2005 budget is only P918.619 billion.

Under its borrowing program for this year, the government is expected to raise P310.2 billion from the domestic market and P221.4 billion from the foreign market.

Michelle V. Remo

GLORIETTA ACTIVITY CENTER
JOB
USA

HUNDREDS of job seekers registered at the INQUIRER Employment Expo 2006 at the Glorietta activity center. The three-day job fair was formally opened yesterday by Vice President Noli de Castro and Philippine Daily Inquirer chair Marixi R. Prieto.

RYAN LIM

Gov't, mining sector drafting mineral reporting code

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE and mining experts see more investments in mining stocks with the crafting of a code that will align the public reporting of exploration results, mineral resources and ore reserves with global standards.

Mining experts attending a briefing held by the PSE yesterday said the government and the private sector hoped to complete the draft of the Philippine Mineral Reporting Code (PMRC) by the end of the year. The code will be similar to Australia's Joint Ore Reserve Committee (JORC) code.

At present, the Philippines has no standards for public reporting of mineral exploration activities, mineral and energy resources and ore reserves. Public disclosures of mineral resources have followed various industry practices and terms that have been loosely used, resulting in declaration of mineral resources that are "ambiguous and less credible" by international standards, mining expert Philippine Mineral Development Institute Foundation (PMDIF) said.

"The importance of having a code is that we will be compatible when we produce reports on Philippine prospects and mines. It will be easily accepted by investors from overseas because it will be written in a common and locally compatible technical language," Rudy Obial, director-trustee of PMDIF said in a briefing yesterday.

Loans extended by commercial banks up 1.1%

LENDING BY THE COUNTRY'S COMMERCIAL banks reached P1.607 trillion in the first six months of the year, 1.1 percent higher than year-ago level.

According to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), the increase in the overall lending by commercial banks was brought about by efforts of the government and industry members to trim down the banking system's nonperforming loans (NPLs).

Monetary authorities, however, admitted that the increase remained modest due to weak corporate demand for loans and the cautious lending stance of banks.

The BSP said in a report that the slight increase in lending by commercial banks was due to the higher loans extended to the following industries: Financial institutions, real estate and business services sector, loans to which grew 13.9 percent; community, social and personal services, 6.5 percent; agriculture, fisheries and forestry, 4.6 percent; and mining and quarrying, 2.1 percent.

Loans to the following sectors posted a decline: Construction, -26.6 percent; manufacturing, -10.8 percent; transportation, storage and communication, -4.3 percent; and wholesale and retail trade, -3 percent.

"The evolution of business operations has given rise to alternative financing arrangements that reduced, to some extent, the need for firms to seek funding from the banks," the BSP said in a statement.

It added, however, that a considerable rise in lending could be seen over the medium term as banks continue to improve on their nonperforming loans ratio and as the economy posts higher growth.

The recent two-year extension of the Special Purpose Vehicle Act, strongly lobbied for by the banking industry and the BSP, is one of the major programs intended to trim down the banking sector's NPLs.

The BSP earlier reported that the banking industry's nonperforming loan ratio, or the ratio of soured loans to total loans, stood at 7.36 percent in May. This translated to bad loans of P141.13 billion.

The law provides various fiscal incentives—such as tax privileges and discounts on fees—for the sale of soured assets by banks to asset management companies.

Michelle V. Remo

RP reversed BOP position, posted surplus in June

Talk is chief

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

TESSIE SY, DAUGHTER OF HENRY SY who started the drooling-over-EPCIB business group called SM, just held "secret" talks with GSIS head Winston Garcia.

In the talks, the two arrived at a price for the GSIS-owned shares in the country's third largest bank EPCIB, and it was P92 per share, which was really just the minimum price that was set by Garcia in his plan to sell the shares through public bidding.

The same SM group, represented by Banco de Oro president Nestor Tan, earlier already offered the same GSIS a higher price of P95 per share.

So what happened? Why is Garcia taking a dive? Word has it that Garcia perhaps heard a voice from above, coming from somewhere in the vicinity of Malacañang. The Palace intercession could be the work of the two "godfathers" who are helping Tessie Sy in the takeover of EPCIB—at the expense of the GSIS and the SSS.

In the Malacañang apparition, the Cebu hometown boy Garcia apparently got an ungodly instruction to negotiate with Tessie Sy to settle their differences over EPCIB.

Unlike SSS boss Corazon de la Paz, who betrayed SSS members by siding with the SM group without much ado, Garcia was the thorn in the takeover side of Tessie Sy.

Garcia even invited the SSS to join the GSIS in the auction. Together, their shares would reach more than 40 percent of the bank. They could fetch a fantastic price.

Even better than that, they could also combine the 10 percent "treasury shares" in the sale, thus offering majority control of the bank to the buyer. In short, BIG premium!

That's precisely the reason why Tessie Sy is doing everything to put off the sale of the "treasury shares," even disobeying an order from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

More than a year ago, the BSP already advised the bank to sell the "treasury shares" or downgrade its capital to reflect their retirement as such.

Up to today, even now that EPCIB is under the control of Tessie Sy and the SM group, the bank has yet to comply with the BSP order.

Precisely, Tessie Sy took control of the EPCIB board, putting "independent directors" who were actually her supporters, to thwart the sale of the treasury shares.

So what is the BSP doing about such a clear "conflict of interest?" Well, basically, NOTHING! Maybe the BSP is also hearing voices from above.

Anyway, Garcia cannot sell the GSIS shares at less that P92 per, because the GSIS charter bars him from selling assets at a loss. Fine, P92 it is then!

Houston, we have a problem—Tessie Sy wants to pay for the GSIS shares after two years. The problem is technically known as "net present value."

After two years, the money from the GSIS sale will not be worth the same. Blame inflation. Prices are going higher than the voice of Kris Aquino when she is excited.

Moreover, EPCIB is listed. If the SM group should own more than 30 percent of a listed company like EPCIB, the "tender offer" rule applies. Tessie Sy must offer the same price to the other shareholders, including the SSS. Yehey!

That should be enough to give Tessie Sy nightmares. Why should she pay P92 per for the SSS shares when the "godfathers" could talk De la Paz to accept a cheaper price of, say, P47 per?

Of course, the deal can always be made through a foreign fund, secretly standing for and on behalf of the SM group.

It could be made through one of the financial institutions (with German and Swiss sounding names), which engineered the drop in the prices of EPCIB shares in the stock market, chiefly by trading the same shares back and forth between themselves.

* * *

Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri blamed Congress for the failure of this cute administration in the power privatization program. Next thing you know, Neri will also blame Congress for his failure to have children.

In effect, our dearly beloved Neda chief is blaming that product of Congress called the Epira law, which set down the privatization program. He said that the failure was due to the lenient rules on the ownership of power generation, on the one hand, and power distribution, on the other, by the same groups. In short, it's the Epira law.

So what has that got to do with the price of siopao in China?

Come on, boss, let's not change the topic. The issue is, basically, corruption! The controversial "sale" of the Masinloc power plant to the shell company YNN is the prime example today.

YNN is simply out to make a killing by bidding sky-high for the Masinloc plant, merely intending to sell the contract to a third party. YNN actually went around town, peddling the contract to power companies. It took almost two years to find a suck … este, "buyer" pala, the Ranhill Berhad of Malaysia, with several strings attached. One of them was the demand of Ranhill for YNN to get a supply contract with Meralco.

But the same Epira law being lambasted by Neri, already provided for transition supply contracts for power plants up for sale under PSALM, such as Masinloc. The law encourages power distributors like Meralco to enter into supply contracts with such plants. Or else, the law penalizes Meralco for getting into other lopsided supply contracts.

And so, if Meralco must now enter into a supply contract with YNN, why didn't PSALM just force Meralco to do the same thing before the bidding? It could have attracted more buyers and better offers, for one.

Also, just exactly why PSALM bidded out the Masinloc plant without the supply contract, still remains a mystery that perhaps only Neri and company must personally explain to us, the millions of consumers in this country now suffering for having the second highest power rate in Asia.

The failure of this cute administration is due to the law, he said? The failure is due to the failure of PSALM (either intentionally or purposely) to implement the law, period.

And so the question immediately comes to mind: By throwing the blame elsewhere, who is Neri protecting? After all, Neri is a director of PSALM, and members of the PSALM board gifted themselves with P10 million of our hard-earned tax money, as bonus for the "successful" sale of Masinloc.

If that was a "success," I am Superman.

* * *

Our insurance playboy has yet to produce before the office of the revenue commissioner, a single piece of document, proving his claim that his insurance company indeed settled its P800-million documentary stamp tax obligation, uncovered by the BIR way back in 1998. Insiders tell me that, to Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag, the supposed P5-million "settlement" eight years ago does not count as official settlement. The more interesting issue is, if the P800-million obligation still exists, how much should it be today? P1.6 billion or P2 billion or what?

Dollar inflows from higher exports, strong remittances cited

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S BALANCE-OF-PAYMENT (BOP) position registered a surplus of $232 million in June, reversing the deficits of the previous two months, buoyed by the dollar inflows from higher exports and release of the country's loan collaterals.

The BOP position in June brought the cumulative, six-month figure to a surplus of $2.04 million, better than the $1.98 million recorded during the same period last year.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said that the move of the national government to pre-terminate some of the Brady bonds it issued in the 1990s resulted in the release of loan collaterals.

The government terminated $411 million worth of Brady bonds in May, which resulted in the BOP deficit of $36 million that month. The pre-termination, however, allowed the release of about the same amount ($411 million) of collaterals, which increased the country's gross international reserves.

Also, Tetangco said the better-than-expected performance of the export sector as well as continued strong dollar inflows from overseas Filipino workers that helped boost the country's BOP position.

In June, the National Statistics Office earlier reported, the country's exports rose by 17.3 percent to $3.877 billion year-on-year. This was better than the full-year target of an 8-percent growth.

"The positive performance during the first semester was achieved following the double-digit growth in OFW remittances, stronger merchandise exports, sustained growth in direct investments income of the BSP," Tetangco explained.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the domestic economy and the rest of the world. Its major components are the current account and the capital and financial account.

Any transaction that gives rise to a payment by a Philippine resident, like importation or debt servicing, is a deficit item in the BOP, while any transaction that results in receipt of foreign exchange, such as borrowing, exporting or inward remittance, is a surplus item.

Northern Mindanao growth to stay steady

By Ronnel W. Domingo

NORTHERN MINDANAO IS EXpected to maintain its export growth rate at about 19 percent this year while infrastructure projects are seen to drive outbound trade from Western Visayas, according to a group exporters.

But according to the Philippine Export Confederation, the increasing cost of doing business will likely hamper export growth.

Data from the regional development council show that revenues of exports from Northern Mindanao—which covers Bukidnon, Camiguin, Misamis Oriental, Misamis Occidental, Lanao del Norte and Iligan City—were expected to reach $644 million in 2006.

Over the last three years, the region posted export growth rates averaging some 20 percent, which were double the national target.

Region 10 is known for its South Sea pearls, handwoven clothes, terra cotta, porcelain, coral and mother of pearl home accessories, as well as artifacts, pineapple fiber shirts, pottery and native handicrafts.

However, Philexport said the high cost of doing business, including expenses for shipping, electricity and labor, may hinder export growth.

Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said in a statement that the government was working on various measures to lower cost of doing business, such as scrapping the fees slapped on exporters by various government agencies.

Also, Favila said key infrastructure projects, like the New Iloilo Airport project and the Iloilo Port—which is under the Strong Republic Nautical Highway project's Roll On-Roll Off facility—would hasten development of export-oriented industries in Western Visayas.

Also known as Region 6, the region covers Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Iloilo, Guimaras and Negros Occidental.

Main products from Western Visayas include sugar, fishery and aquaculture products, seaweeds, mangos, embroidery products such as pinya cloth, and mineral products, such as copper, gold, silver, molybdenum, iron and gypsum.

PSBank
PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK
A METROBANK SUBSIDIARY

PSBank Center, 777 Paseo de Roxas cor. Sedeño St., Makati City

STATEMENT OF CONDITION

(Head Office and Branches)
As of June 30, 2006

ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Items	502,859,434.51
Due from Bangko Sentral	1,847,230,800.76
Due from Other Banks	2,431,148,199.33
Interbank Loans Receivable	2,340,085,051.95
Trading Account Securities (Net)	36,801,713.22
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)	10,616,814,250.34
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)	32,662,842,373.02
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (Net)	2,124,820,381.27
Other Assets (Net):	
Property Owned/Acquired	2,256,064,281.38
Others	2,198,969,046.30
TOTAL ASSETS	**57,017,635,532.08**
LIABILITIES	
Demand Deposits	6,181,756,357.09
Savings Deposits	9,144,472,857.79
Time Deposits	31,651,123,894.57
Due to Bangko Sentral	10,218,742.48
Due to Banks	-
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders	313,567,852.99
Bills Payable:	
BSP-Rediscounts/Special Programs	-
Others	1,964,755,455.15
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits	82,315,284.05
Other Liabilities	1,989,317,076.65
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**51,337,527,520.77**
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	
Capital Stock	2,019,383,150.00
Surplus	3,207,977,655.89
Surplus Reserves	452,747,205.42
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	**5,680,108,011.31**
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	**57,017,635,532.08**
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	
Bills for Collection	120,650.66
Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Management Agreements	199,060,815.16
Invested in:	
Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Share of Stock	161,581,159.46
Other Assets	37,479,655.70
Accountabilities:	
Trust & Other Fiduciary	198,820,554.18
Unearned Income & Other Accountabilities	240,260.98
Other Contingent Accounts	58,838,760.76
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	**258,020,226.58**
Additional Information:	
1. Deposits of	
a) Government	-
b) Banks	30,073,786.48
c) Trust Department	37,249,433.52
2 a. Total Non-Performing Loans	1,918,163,111.66
b. Classified Loans and Other Risk Assets	3,741,228,584.65
c. General Loan Loss Reserve	292,167,879.43
d. Specific Loan Loss Reserve	1,368,125,585.93
e. Total DOSRI Loans/Advances	1,416,825,940.27
f. Past Due DOSRI Loans Advances	-
g. Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio	4.94%
h. Ratio of Total DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio	3.65%
i Ratio of Past Due DOSRI to Total Loan Portfolio	-
j. Return on Equity	20.13%
3. Compliance with Magna Carta Law	
a. Prescribed Ratio of Comp for 6% (Small Ent)	34.32%
b. Prescribed Ratio of Comp for 2% (Medium Ent)	5.26%

Board of Directors

Jose T. Pardo
Chairman

Jovencio F. Cinco
Vice Chairman

Arthur V. Ty
Vice Chairman

Jose G. Araullo

Ma. Theresa G. Barretto

Margaret T. Cham

David O. Chua

Pascual M. Garcia III

Alfredo P. Javellana II

Regis V. Puno

Maria Ursula R. Resurreccion

Principal Officers

Pascual M. Garcia III
President

Rolando A. Rodriguez
Executive
Vice President

Jaime V. L. Araneta
Senior Vice President

Noli S. Gomez
Senior Vice President

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
CITY OF MAKATI) S. S.

We, PERFECTO RAMON Z. DIMAYUGA JR. and PASCUAL M. GARCIA III of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd) PERFECTO RAMON Z. DIMAYUGA JR.
First Vice President

(Sgd) PASCUAL M. GARCIA III
President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 14 July 2006 at City of Makati, affiant exhibiting to me their Community Tax Certificates No. 02121638 issued at Makati City on January 16, 2006 and No. 12799268 issued at Quezon City on February 10, 2006.

(Sgd) ATTY. JOSE HERNANDEZ DY
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2006
PTR No. 129401 Mkna. 1-17-06
IBP OR No. 642125 Mla. 1-17-06
City of Makati

Doc. No. 347
Book No. 70
Page No. CCXXXVII
Series of 2006

RP cuts tariff on oil products to 2%

By Abigail L. Ho

THE COUNTRY yesterday slashed its import tariff on crude oil and petroleum products to 2 percent from 3 percent, as world prices hovered near record highs due to the worsening conflict between Israel and Hizbollah guerrillas.

"This is to help mitigate the high oil prices," Energy Undersecretary Guillermo Balce said in explaining the government's move.

US light sweet crude for August delivery was up 43 cents, or 0.56 percent, at $77.40 per barrel yesterday. Brent crude for September also jumped to a record-high at $78.18 a barrel yesterday.

Balce said that the Department of Energy continues to monitor the prices of oil in the world market, particularly now that the conflict in the Middle East has reached a critical state.

Balce said the move to reduce tariffs on crude and finished products was based on certain "triggers" as determined by the implementing rules of EO 527, or the tariff reduction order.

Under the implementing rules, the 3-percent tariff will go down to 2 percent if the regional benchmark Dubai crude hits $66 a barrel, and diesel based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for finished products reaches $88 a barrel.

These price levels would have to be sustained for two weeks to merit a tariff reduction.

The next trigger points, which will bring the tariff to 1 percent, are $75 a barrel for Dubai crude and still $88 a barrel for MOPS-based diesel.

The import tariff will be scrapped altogether if Dubai crude hits $85 a barrel, with MOPS-based diesel at $88 a barrel.

The tariffs on crude and finished product imports went down to 2 percent last month, when world oil prices hit the trigger points. But the tariffs early this month went back to the mandated 3 percent when prices started to soften.

According to data from the DOE, Dubai crude hit a record-high of $71.99 a barrel last Friday, pulling the July average up to $69.24 a barrel from $65.22 a barrel last month.

MOPS-based unleaded gasoline soared to a July 1-14 average of $85.31 a barrel from last month's $82.76 a barrel.

MOPS-based diesel likewise surged to an average of $88.03 a barrel in the first 14 days of the month from $87.57 a barrel in June.

The unrelenting increase in international prices is attributed to the conflict in Israel and Lebanon.

Tension over Iran's uranium enrichment program also placed enormous pressure on world oil prices.

The Philippines imports nearly all of its oil requirements, mainly from Saudi Arabia and Iran.

With a rerpot from Reuters

Picpa links up with software firm

STREAMLINING ITS OWN ACcounting system through the support of the market leader in financial software distribution, the 70,000-strong Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Picpa) has linked up with local Quickbooks distributor e-Methods for Business Management Inc (e-MBM) for its customized accounting requirements.

Picpa president David L. Balangue signed a three-year agreement with e-MBM chair and CEO Garth Noel Tolentino allowing e-MBM to provide QuickBooks products, staff training, technical support and provisions for updates in implementing complete and functioning accounting systems for Picpa using QuickBooks.

Balangue acknowledged e-MBM for its "generous donation and excellent assistance" to Picpa. The accredited professional organization of certified public accountants in the country received 10 user licenses of QuickBooks to upgrade its accounting system, including creation of customized reports, documentation and integration.

Developed by Intuit, the global leader in financial software products, QuickBooks targets financial professionals and small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Since 1993, e-MBM has dominated the SME market with its complete line of Intuit financial software products, including Quicken and Customer Manager.

e-MBM recently arranged financial assistance package that SMEs can avail from Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corp (SBGFC) in developing their systems. Through e-MBM, a qualified entrepreneur can borrow up to P200,000 from SBGFC for use in office productivity solutions.

SMEs account for 99 percent of over 800,000 existing enterprises in the country today based on figures from the National Statistics Office. Previous studies revealed that SMEs, despite their lack of financial resources, would like to keep up with technology to be productive and efficient.

As an SME business solutions provider, e-MBM has 3,000 clients using QuickBooks to manage receivables and payables and just-in-time inventory, analyze business performance, track down marketing data and evaluate customer trends and customer credit performance for effective marketing strategy.

e-MBM is supporting Picpa in its celebration of the annual accountancy week on July 16-22. For inquiries, call Cristy L. Oreta at 531-2443 or 746-4669, e-mail quickbooks@embm.net or log on to www.embm.net.

UNILAB INTENSIFIES CAMPAIGN AGAINST COUGH DISEASE

United Laboratories Inc (Unilab), the country's leading pharmaceutical company, has intensified its campaign against cough disease with the launching of a new advertising campaign for Solmux, the leading cough medicine in the market. The campaign recently debuted with the tagline 'Ang gamot na may ibubuga', to reinforce Solmux's effectiveness as a cough reliever. Through its consumer health division, Unilab also conducted the Solmux Kiddie Cough Clinic in selected public elementary schools in Quezon City where close to 4,500 patients, mostly children, were treated. Popular actor Aga Muhlach recently signed his contract as Solmux celebrity endorser. Shown in photo with him are (from left): Unilab Provita category head Alex Panlilio, the Solmux Gorilla that appears in the TV ad, Unilab corporate VP for consumer health Jun Vivar, Unilab category head Josel Garcia, and Unilab DVP for cough and cold Joey Romana.

A PROJECT OF HUMANITY FROM BOSCH

Andreas Bodemer, sales and marketing director for Bosch Automotive Aftermarket Asean, turns-over Spark of Life contributions to Annette Helbig, president of Springboard Foundation. With them is Antonio Leonardo, general manager of Bosch Automotive Aftermarket (Philippines).

Bosch Automotive Aftermarket, one of the major sales divisions of Robert Bosch Inc, in January 2006 launched Spark of Life - a yearlong program that generates charitable funds for medical missions, disaster and medical relief programs in the country. Through the company's partnership with Springboard Foundation, the program has already provided for the foster care and post-trauma psychological treatment of some 40 children who were orphaned in the recent Leyte landslide. The Spark of Life program reinforces Bosch's enduring commitment to help kindle the hope of a brighter future for the nation. It reaffirms the philanthropic spirit fostered by Robert Bosch.

BARON ANTENNA'S PROMO WINNER

Pamfilo Estalani (middle), won the grand prize (ringside ticket) of Baron Antenna's 'Bumili ng Baron at Maaaring Manood ng Boxing in Action' Pacquiao - Larios Mano-A-Mano Philippines vs Mexico promo drawn last June 23, at Adtel's office. With him is Lloyd A. Trestiza - production and materials planner and Jocelyn C. Adra - admin staff of Adtel Inc. This promo is brought to you by Adtel Inc in cooperation with ABS-CBN.

PAG, VOLVO EXECUTIVES VISIT THE PHILIPPINES

Premier Automotive Group (PAG) vice president for sales operations, Keith Schäfer, conducts a visit to the Philippine market. With him is the new regional business manager for Volvo Car Asia Pacific, Jack Zaal. The officers were here to discuss the product and sales platform of Volvo Philippines for the next six years as well as initiate the entry of new products for 2007. This visit signifies the continued support and confidence in the local Volvo dealerships and promises a more dynamic future for Volvo in the country. In photo from left: Premier Automotive Group's vice president for sales operations, Keith Schäfer, Viking Cars Inc's (VCI) executive vice president Roselyn Dimalanta, Volvo Car Asia Pacific regional business manager Jack Zaal, and VCI's president and chief executive Officer lawyer Albert Arcilla.

BONAKID HOLDS PARTY FOR 1 YEAR OLD KIDS

Wyeth Phils Bonakid, in partnership with GMA Kapuso Foundation, held its first ever Birthday Party for One Year Old Kids last May 22, at Jollibee Green Meadows, Libis Quezon City. Twenty children from the GMA Kapuso Foundation were treated to two hours of fun and excitement at the event. Wyeth Phils Bonakid product manager Rachel Francisco (shown in photo) was present to hand over some of their products to GMA Kapuso Foundation executive director Nonie Dela Fuente, who will, in turn, distribute those products to the underprivileged families around the country. For more information about the Bonakid First Birthday Party Bash, call Luminesce Creative Communications at 916-8431 and 646-9172.

PHILIPPINE MADRIGAL SINGERS WINS AWARD

The Philippine Madrigal Singers scored yet another triumph for the country when it emerged as the grand prize winner in the Florilège Vocal de Tours 2006 last June 4. The group was awarded First Prizes in the Mixed Vocal Ensemble Category and in the Free Program Category. It was also the recipient of the Prix Special Renaissance (separate category for a purely Renaissance programme). The group bested 14 other choirs, earning them the Grand Prix de la Ville de Tours - an award given to the choir giving the most satisfactory overall performance during the entire competition and that gives them the right to compete in the 2007 European Grand Prix in Choral Singing.

PBCom holds annual stockholders' meeting

THE PHILIPPINE BANK OF Communications (PBCom), one of the country's oldest commercial banks, held its annual stockholders meeting last June 20. PBCom president and CEO Carmelo Maria Luza Bautista reported that the bank ended the year 2005 with a solid performance despite the many challenges the year brought to the Philippine economy.

The bank posted a net income of P215 million - a P115 million increase from the 2004 restated net income of P100 million - for an outstanding 114 percent growth. This translated to a return of P4.10 per share compared to last year's P1.91 per share.

Non-interest income increased by P374.4 million or 562.25 percent, from P665 million in 2004 to P1.040 billion in 2005. Substantially contributing to the increase were better revenue streams from Trading, Trust Operations, Foreign Exchange and Recoveries from Credit Losses.

PBCom's capital base was boosted by the infusion of P3.0 billion in fresh equity through the subscription of new preferred shares by the three major shareholder groups last March 2004. Pending the receipt of the formal approval of the amended articles of incorporation of the SEC, the equity infused was reflected as deposits for future subscription. The preferred shares were subsequently approved and booked as capital last March 31. This brought PBCom's total capital to P9.225 billion, the highest capitalization among local commercial banks, and its risk-based capital adequacy ratio of 32.6 percent, well above the 10 percent minimum requirement of the BSP.

Moreover, the transition coming from the conclusion of the SPAV and the Financial Assistance Agreement provided by the PDIC in 2004 ensured a stable and focused operating environment. As a formidable springboard, it gave the Bank the impetus to gradually build up its portfolio and undertake a serious institutional strengthening process towards competitiveness and growth.

Nourishment Education Program launched

THE GIRL giving the flowers is Mikee Rosal, which according to Usec Fe Hidalgo symbolizes the children of today.

AWARE OF THE EFFECTS OF MALNUTRITION on learning, Mead Johnson through its product Lactum initiated the 100% Nourishment Education Program, an advocacy on good health and nutrition, in partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd).

The three year program aims to foster health and nutrition education on mothers and their children starting with grade school pupils in public elementary schools. The program will be implemented in public schools nationwide.

Lactum and the DepEd believe that feeding a hungry mind with the right information and nourishing the body with the right nutrition will lead to a generation of properly nourished and well-educated Filipinos.

A survey showed that malnutrition greatly affects the way a student behaves in school. The Lactum 100% Nourishment Education Program, facilitated through Mary Lindbert International, will be implemented in majority of public elementary schools nationwide.

Beyond the public schools, Lactum and DepEd will also initiate the program for daycare centers to be able to bring to the persons who can help nourish the children the most at a physical and mental level – their mothers.

DepEd Sec Fe Hidalgo said, "Empowering the parents and the children by feeding their mind and their bodies is truly one step closer to a better tomorrow."

The Lactum 100% Nourishment Education Program features projects designed specifically to enhance and empower mothers and their children on the advantages of proper mental and physical nourishment.

ProductFILES

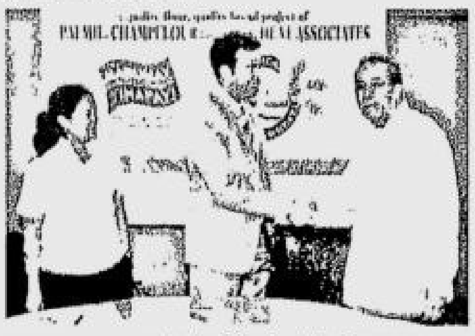
Happy mommy Tintin

AS A TV PERSONALITY, TIN TIN Bersola-Babao is busy as ever. But she still maintains her youthful and radiant looks because she makes sure that she gets enough sleep to keep her looking fresh. As a mommy to her precious baby Antonia, choosing the right diaper makes her worry-free, and makes her blooming as ever. Being a mommy has never been this easy with EQ Dry Diapers. Tintin gets restful sleep because EQ Dry gives overnight protection that keeps Antonia dry all night. It has 100 percent breathable cover keeps her baby feel fresh all the time. And, most importantly, she doesn't have to worry about skin irritations because EQ Dry has a soft cloth-like cover that prevents skin friction on baby's delicate skin. EQ Dry gives Mommy Tintin peace of mind so she can spend less time worrying about Antonia and more time bonding with her. And bonding time with the family is truly one of the ingredients of a happy family, which makes Tintin bloom even more. And of course, EQ Diapers are the only diapers that can make both babies and mommies happy. EQ Dry Diapers are economical and give value for money while making babies happy and comfortable all the time.

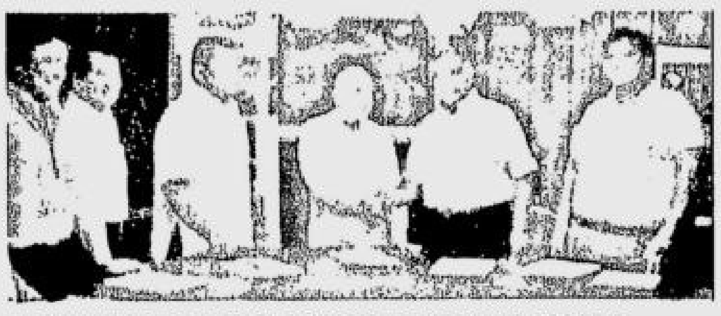
LAWASIA PHILIPPINES CELEBRATES ITS 10TH YEAR

Lawasia Philippines Inc held its 10th anniversary celebration last June 6, 6 p.m. at the Turf Room of the Manila Polo Club. The said event was intended to be a manifestation of Lawasia Philippines' continuing commitment in promoting the professional relationships among lawyers from the public and private sectors within the Asia Pacific Region. Lawasia Philippines was established to support the Australia-based Law Association of Asia and the Pacific (Lawasia), with members in over twenty-one countries, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. The occasion was highlighted by the address of the guest speaker, His Excellency Ambassador Peter Sutherland, Ambassador of Canada to the Philippines. Lawasia Philippines Inc is headed by its chair, former Ambassador and Solicitor-General Raul I. Goco, and its president, lawyer Raoul R. Angangco, co-managing partner of Villaraza and Angangco Law Offices and former president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines. Ambassador Goco served as president of Lawasia from 1983 to 1985. Among the officers and trustees of Lawasia Philippines Inc are well respected members of the legal profession: lawyer Edgar E. Tarriela, executive vice-president and country representative, lawyer Mervyn G. Encanto, vice president-finance, a former president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines as well as of Lawasia (from 1999 to 2001), lawyer Eusebio V. Tan, vice president-external, lawyer Jose Perpetuo Lotilla, vice president-internal, lawyer Ester Sison Cruz-treasurer, who is also the national treasurer of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, lawyer Lilia B. de Lima, Director-General of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, lawyer Diana F. Franco, lawyer Quirino Marquinez, retired Judge Dolores Espanol, newly-appointed Court of Appeals Justice Sixto Marella Jr., and lawyer Rita Linda Jimeno, trustees.

EAT MORE BREAD, EXPERTS SAY



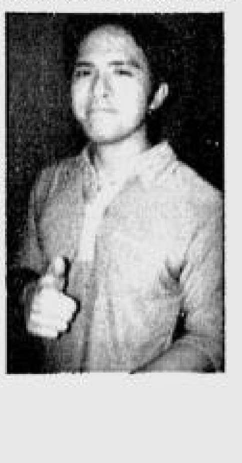
The Philippine Association of Flour Millers Inc (Pafmil), Chamber of Philippine Flour Millers (Champflour) and the US Wheat Associates have recently agreed to promote the benefits of eating bread among Filipinos through the Mabuhay Tinapay Program. Aimed at getting Filipinos to increase their consumption of bread, the program will also promote the use of locally-milled flour and instill pride among bakers who constantly provide Filipinos with nutritious and delicious bread products. Signing the Memorandum of Agreement are (from left) Aileen U. Ongkauco of Champflour; Mike Spier, assistant regional director, US Wheat Associates; and William Carlos Uy of Pafmil.



FIRST MICROTEL INN & SUITES IN MINDANAO

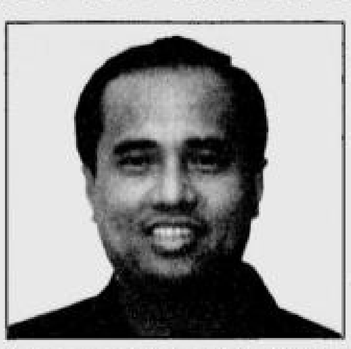
Microtel Inns & Suites (Pilipinas) Inc and Damosa Land Inc recently signed an agreement for a Microtel Inn & Suites franchise in Davao City, the 6th Microtel property in the Philippines. There are currently 278 Microtels operating and under construction worldwide including 5 here in the Philippines. These are located in Baguio, Tarlac, Batangas, Cavite and Boracay (to open in November 2006). All Microtels in the Philippines are managed by Paramount Property Management Company. For inquiries, call 810-9526, send INFO to 0917-8881800, e-mail sales@microtelphilippines.com or log on to www.microtelphilippines.com. Shown (from left) are Oscar V. Grapa (first vice president, Damosa Land/Anflo Group), Dennis M. Marcelino (CFO, Microtel), Sec. Rodolfo P. Del Rosario (President, Damosa Land/Anflo Group), Antonio O. Floirendo (chairman of the board, Damosa Land/Anflo Group), Jose Mari Del Rosario (president, Microtel), and Ricardo R. Floirendo (chief operating officer, Damosa Land/Anflo Group).

MOLECULES SUPPORTS DENNIS' B-DAY CONCERT



Molecules image model Dennis Trillo's first ever birthday concert dubbed as 'Maiba Naman' held at Zirkoh Timog last May 12, was jam-packed of lively audiences. It was a boisterous party of music and fun as guests like Teri Onor, Gladys Guevarra, Marian Rivera, Janno Gibbs and Angel Locsin graced the crowd with their line of specialty. Media personalities were present during the celebration in order to share this moment to the fans that were not able to join the party. Also, Dennis' favorite tops 'Molecules' was alongside to support him while he hit his milestone of the year as Cherry Yau and Becky Zalamea of Chanel Manufacturing Corp gave their presence during this merry celebration.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Notice is hereby given that **JUSTINE M. SEBASTIAN** whose picture appears above is no longer connected with CATHAY LAND, INC. - SOUTH FORBES GOLF CITY effective June 7, 2006. Any transaction entered into by JUSTINE M. SEBASTIAN will not be honored by CATHAY LAND, INC. Anyone who may have entered into any transactions with Justine M. Sebastian for and in behalf of Cathay Land, Inc., is advised to contact Liezel F. Fernando at (02) 638-22-64 and verify the status of their respective account.

(PDI--July 18 & 23, 2006)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5282

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

26" Integral Spiral Type Stabilizers under FGK 60504
Approved Budget: PHP 16,984,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Ms. Maria Cristina Lynn M. Mercado starting July 18, 2006** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on July 27, 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply Management Department at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Supply Management Department Wall Clock Time) of August 17, 2006**. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee I

(PDI--July 18 & 25, 2006)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5389

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

Videoconferencing System under CK-602152
Approved Budget Php 4,650,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Mr. Winthrop Z. Gutierrez** starting July 17, 2006, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held **on July 21, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply Management Department, Ground Floor, Building 5 at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Supply Management Department Office Wall Clock Time) of August 04, 2006**. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Later bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

(Sgd.) **FRANCIS M. DOLOR**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee I

(PDI - July 18 & 25, 2006)

TARLAC I ELECTRIC COPERATIVE, INC.
(TARELCO I)
AMALACAN, GERONA, TARLAC
"OWNED BY THE PEOPLE IT SERVES"

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AND FOR BIDS

The Tarlac I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (TARELCO I) invites qualified bidders for the long term supply of the TARELCO I power requirements commencing in the year 2010.

Interested parties should sumbit their company profile, duly notarized authorized representative and primary contact person to:

THE GENERAL MANAGER
Tarlac I Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Amalacan, Gerona, Tarlac
Tel Nos. (045) 931-2212, 931-2254
Fax No. (045) 931-0974

You may submit the above requirements starting July 19, 2006 until August 2, 2006.

Only those qualified by the PBAC shall be invited to BID.

(Sgd.) ENGR. RESURRECCION R. CORONEL
General Manager

(PDI - July 17 & 18, 2006)

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The DNA of excellence seminar set

SUCCESS IS NOT AN accident. There are specific reasons why the top performers win. Plug into your ultimate power! Activate the inner resource of your people and create breakthroughs and explosive results. Don't miss the groundbreaking event dubbed as The DNA of Excellence slated on July 28 at Holiday Inn Galleria.

Distinguished speakers include James Valentine, international speaker and author; his books have been published in 12 countries; Juliet Torcelino Van Ruyven, international motivator; Jesse Re-bustillo, head of Classified Ads Division of Philippine Daily Inquirer; Joey Reyes, founder and president of PowerSpeak; and Rene Espinosa, managing director of Porter and Miles Inc.

The topics include The Challenge of Excellence; Dream Big Dreams; Vision – The Power to See; Conceiving, Believing and Achieving, The Magic of Positive Thinking; The Ultimate Personal Empowerment; Responsibility and Commitment; Action Plans; S-Y-S-T-E-M; Action TNT; Power Questions; Taking Action; etc.

This major event is organized by Porter and Miles Inc. with office address at Suite 2502-C Tektite Tower East, Ortigas Center. You may call Mercy at 638-7719 / 20 for more information / registration. An overnight stay for two at Holiday Inn Galleria Gift Certificate will be raffled off during the event plus other great prizes.

OBITUARIES

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
— 2 Corinthians 5:8

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
Tel. Nos. Quezon City : 712-3001 • 743-6502
Manila : 711-6931 to 35

NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF VIEWING	INTERMENT/CREMATION	
		DATE & TIME	PLACE
Alegria D. Olarte	Chapel-14	7/18/06; 9:00 a.m.	Paz Crematory
Jose A. Alarcon	Chapel-6	7/19/06; 9:00 a.m.	Loyola Mem. Park Marikina

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"We, who are saddened by the certainty of death
are also comforted by the promise of immortality"

In commemoration of the
2nd Death Anniversary
of our beloved

AUGUSTO M. BARCELON

May 4, 1922 – July 18, 2004

Holy Masses will be offered today, July 18, 2006 at:

Cenacle Davao	6:00 am
Monasterio de Sta. Clara	6:00 am
Pink Sisters – *Hemady*	6:00 am
Santuario de San Antonio Church *McKinley Road, Forbes Park*	7:30 am
The Medical City Chapel	12:00 pm
Sancta Maria Stella Orientis Church *CRC, Pearl Drive, Pasig City*	12:00 pm
Chapel of St. Thomas More *Ateneo Rockwell Drive*	12:15 pm
Our Lady of EDSA	12:15 pm
Pink Sisters, *Tagaytay*	6:00 pm
St. Francis Church *Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong*	6:00 pm

Please remember him in your prayers.

"Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God."
Jesus Christ

ROSARIO "Charito" MORENO ALUNAN

Peacefully returned to our Creator in the loving embrace of the Blessed Virgin Mary and her beloved husband, the late **Rafael "Nene" R. Alunan, Jr.** on July 16, 2006 at the age of 87.

Her beloved sisters and brothers-in-law **Nenita** (†) & **Rene** (†) **Rodriguez**, **Ling** & **Joe** (†) **Javellana**; bereaved children **Raffy** & **Elizabeth**, **Eddie**, **Maribel** & **Mayo**; grandchildren **Katrina** & **Bong**, **Barni** & **Mark**, **Rafa** & **Amina**, **Christina**, **Gabby**, **Alexi**, **Michael**, **Carla**, **Joseph** and **Monica**; great grandchildren **Enrique**, **Mateo** and **Alec**; loving **Rodriguez** and **Javellana** nephews and nieces; devoted helpers **Doming** & **Annie**; caring relatives and friends, request the pious readers to join them in their prayers for the eternal repose of her soul and everlasting joy in the eternal kingdom of Heaven.

Her remains lie in state at Mt. Carmel Chapel, New Manila, Quezon City.

Cremation and interment will be on Wednesday, July 19, 2006 after the 9:00 a.m. Funeral Mass in the main church.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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ALFM Family of Funds

In the local mutual fund industry, one family of funds stands out in providing consistent superior returns to its investors – the ALFM Family of Funds. The ALFM Family of Funds is the only one that boasts of a true, multi-currency family of funds (Peso, U.S. Dollar, and Euro). As the undisputed industry leader, the ALFM Family has cornered about 60% market share of the entire Philippine mutual fund industry as of May 31, 2006.

ALFM Family of Funds' Accomplishments

2005 is a banner year for the ALFM Family of Funds. ALFM Peso and ALFM Dollar grew at faster clips outpacing their respective competitors. They continue to outperform their benchmarks to provide consistent and stable returns.

Individually, the ALFM Peso, Dollar and Euro Funds performed impeccably last year. It has been a stellar year for ALFM Peso Bond Fund by driving the growth of the Philippine mutual fund industry almost single-handedly. In terms of returns, the Fund's yield for 2005 was recorded at 8.01%, net of fees and taxes. It outperformed its benchmark, the 91-day Treasury Bill's tax-paid average rate of 4.86%, by as much 315 basis points.

For ALFM Dollar Bond Fund, 2005 saw its net asset value (NAV) grow more than two-folds, from USD 39.96 Million in 2004 to USD 85.34 Million, in spite of the 3.54% decline in the U.S. Dollar fixed income segment. ALFM Dollar yielded 4.60%, net of fees and taxes, outperforming the 1-Year U.S. Treasury Note yield of 2.78% by 182 basis points. This year, the ALFM Family notched another milestone with the launch of the country's first euro-incorporated mutual fund-- the ALFM Euro Bond Fund. In such a short time, it has topped the NAV of its lone competitor to become the biggest euro fund by June 2006.

The ALFM Family of Funds Recent Performance

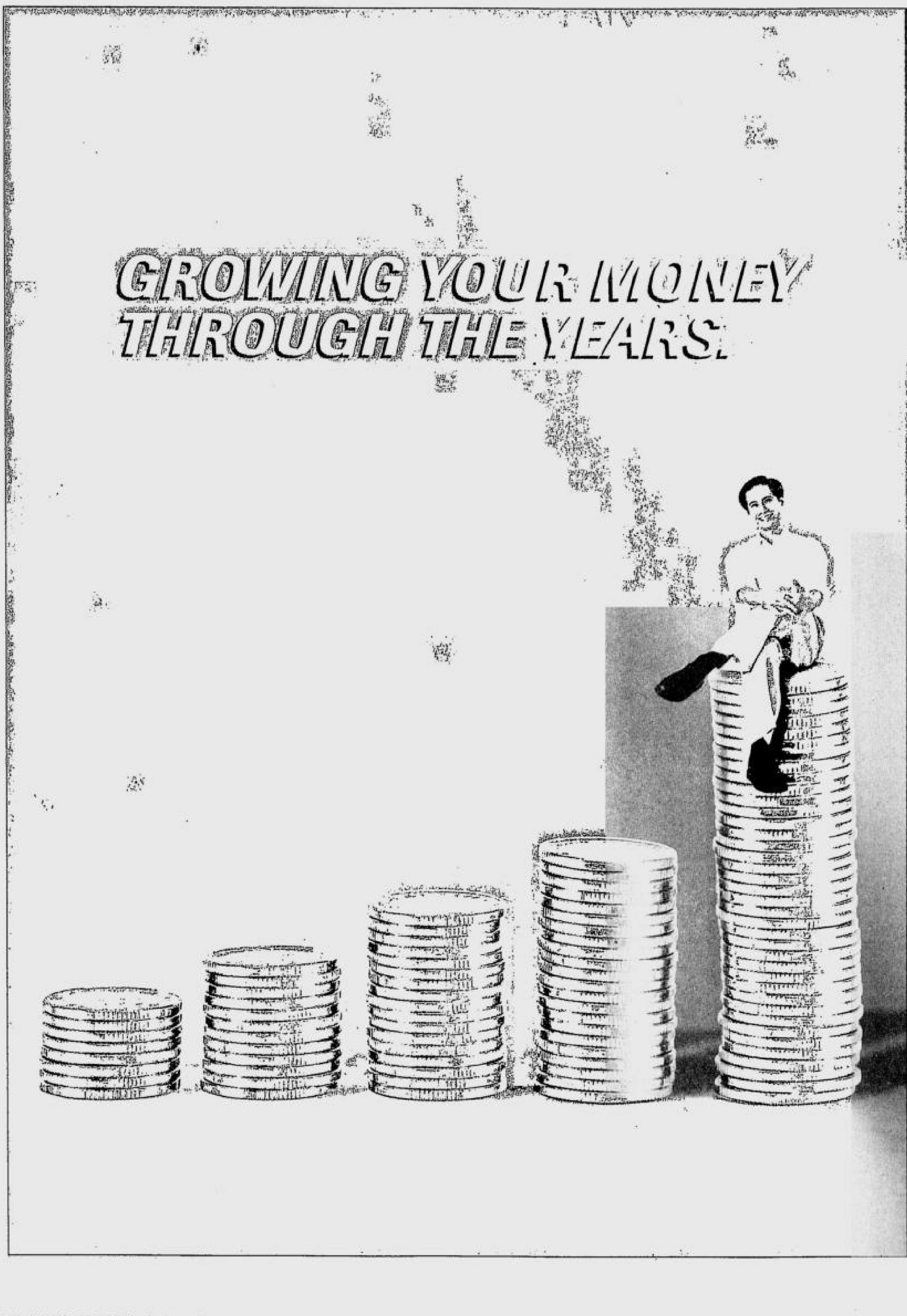
The Philippine bond market experienced heightened volatility, with interest rates surging by an average of 394 basis points on June 19, 2006. Against an unfavorable interest rate backdrop commencing in the 2nd quarter of 2006, the ALFM Family of Funds was still able to provide investors superior returns.

Remarkably, with its strong fund management fundamentals and its inherent and unique risk management strategies amidst the volatile interest rate scenario, ALFM Peso was able to post a respectable year-to-date (YTD) absolute net return of 3.82% as of July 10, 2006, outperforming the 91-day Treasury Bill's yield of 2.51%. Furthermore, ALFM Peso's 360-day net return of 7.93% outranked its benchmark's 5.02% earnings for the same period. Interest rates have already dropped from the June 19 peak levels by an average of 162 basis points. The significant recovery is expected to continue and will translate directly to the Fund's continuing and stronger performance as the market sets gear to take advantage of the current interest rate levels.

Due to the increased volatility experienced by the market, all U.S. Dollar-denominated bond funds incurred very low YTD return on investments (ROI), ranging from -1.43% to 0.37%, EXCEPT for ALFM Dollar Bond Fund. The Fund's prudent investment strategy served its investors well as its absolute YTD ROI of 2.64%, net of taxes and fees, bested its competitors in the dollar bond fund segment as of July 10, 2006. It surpassed its benchmark 1-Year US Treasuries net return of 1.80% over the same period. On a year-on-year (YOY) basis, ALFM Dollar's net return of 5.15% also outperformed its benchmark's yield of 3.73% by as much as 142 basis points.

The newest member of the Family of Funds, the ALFM Euro Bond Fund, is not to be outdone. From its NAV of about EUR 0.86 Million during its public launch in February of this year, ALFM Euro has grown to over EUR 3.19 Million as of July 10, 2006. The increase in NAV of more than three-folds has allowed it to overtake, in a relatively short period of time, its sole competitor in the euro bond fund segment in terms of fund size. In a time when the European Central Bank has been increasing its interest rates, ALFM Euro has been able to provide its investors an absolute net YTD ROI of 1.88% as of July 10, 2006 surpassing the benchmark 1-Year German Treasury Bill's absolute YTD net return of 1.24% and the competitor's negative 0.12% yield. Looking at its performance over the past year, ALFM Euro's YOY net return of 2.39% still outpaced its benchmark's return of 2.12% over the same period.

During the recent adverse conditions, the ALFM Family of Funds has proven that its prudent investment management strategy served its investors well by continuing to provide consistent superior returns. Truly, no one looks after its clients' welfare better than the ALFM Family of Funds – The Investors' No. 1 Choice.



The best possible yields from the Philippines' biggest mutual fund-- ALFM.

Looking for a conservative investment that provides you higher returns? Look no further than ALFM, the undisputed leader in the Philippine mutual fund industry.

YOUR MONEY'S GROWTH IN ALFM PESO BOND FUND OVER THE YEARS

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	YTD (07/13/06)
Absolute ROI	7.41%	15.86%	24.69%	34.82%	40.33%
Your Money's Growth in ALFM*	₱107,412	₱115,857	₱124,691	₱134,818	₱140,332
Annual ROI	7.41%	7.86%	7.63%	8.01%	4.09%**

*For every ₱100,000.00 investment in the Fund starting Dec. 31, 2001
**Absolute YTD Net ROI

To know more about ALFM, please feel free to call any of the telephone numbers listed below.

BPI Capital Corporation
Metro Manila: (02) 842-3327, (02) 245-1605, (02) 373-5872, (02) 435-4998, (02) 816-9665, (02) 845-5697, (02) 845-5698, (02) 404-2016, (02) 744-0758, (02) 633-3511
North Luzon: (044) 794-4115, (045) 963-4776, (075) 522-9719, (074) 442-5504
South Luzon: (049) 562-2936
Visayas: (034) 433-9535, (032) 231-4495, (033) 336-1588
Mindanao: (08822) 711-539, (082) 235-3556

BPI Investment Management, Inc.
(02) 845-5033 to 34

BPI Securities Corporation
(02) 816-9190 or 9192

ALFM
(Ayala Life Fixed Income Fund, Inc.)
The Investors' No. 1 Choice

A mutual fund is an open-end investment company registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in which the investible cash of numerous investors are pooled with the aim of achieving a specific investment objective. MUTUAL FUNDS ARE NOT DEPOSIT PRODUCTS AND, AS SUCH, YIELDS ARE NOT GUARANTEED. Mutual funds are not PDIC-insured. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.

WHAT'S INSIDE
'BIENVENIDA' and 'despedida' C4

LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

The science behind your workout

Part One

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

YOU MAY NOT REALIZE IT BUT EVERY TIME you exercise, scientific principles are put into action. If you follow these rules, you get results. If you don't, you become frustrated with your workout program.

These principles are the basics of exercise science. They apply to everyone—regardless of age, gender, race or type of workout.

Specificity

The principle of specificity of training states that you only get good at what you train for. Plan your exercise program according to what you want to achieve. Don't expect to get firm arms from walking on a treadmill. Boxing will strengthen your arms, core and legs but it won't do much to increase your flexibility.

If you want significantly larger muscles, you need a body builder's program. If you only want average strength muscles, a basic strength training routine will suffice.

If you want flexible strength, try yoga or Pilates. If you want to improve your stamina, choose a form of cardiovascular exercise. If you want to improve your athletic fitness, do exercises that mimic your sport.

Specificity is the great fitness equalizer. Even if you can easily last through the meanest spinning class in town, you will still feel like a complete fool when you try rock climbing.

Seasoned runners will find themselves in knots when they try yoga while advanced yoga practitioners will be breathless when they try running.

This makes you respect and admire forms of exercise different from yours. It also makes you realize that there is no perfect exercise. No one can claim to be the "fittest" person around.

ILLUSTRATED BY STEPH BRAVO

Overload

To see any kind of fitness improvement, you need to "overload" or stress the body slightly more than what it is used to. Gradually increase the overload until you reach your desired level or goal. However, if you increase the overload too quickly, the body doesn't have time to adapt and becomes injured or overstressed.

If you have been sedentary for 10 years, a 20- or 30-minute leisurely walk three times a week is the initial overload you need to get aerobically fit. Doing 60 minutes of brisk walking right away may lead to sore muscles, fatigue and breathlessness.

But if you increase your walking time by five to 10 minutes a week, your body will adapt quite nicely and, before you know it, you can walk for an hour without feeling sore or fatigued.

The amount of time you walk is not the only overload you can use. You can also challenge yourself by increasing the intensity or frequency. Just don't do it all at once. Change only one overload at a time and your body will be able to adapt safely.

The FITT principle—frequency, intensity, time and type—is a way of summarizing the concept of overload.

To get stronger muscles, the most obvious overload is the amount of weight you lift but you can also change the overload with the speed at which you lift, the sequence of your exercises, the number of repetitions and sets, or the type of resistance used.

Common sense tells us that you cannot keep increasing the overload because, no matter how fit you are, the body can only take so much exercise. Burnout and injury are the inevitable results of continuous overload.

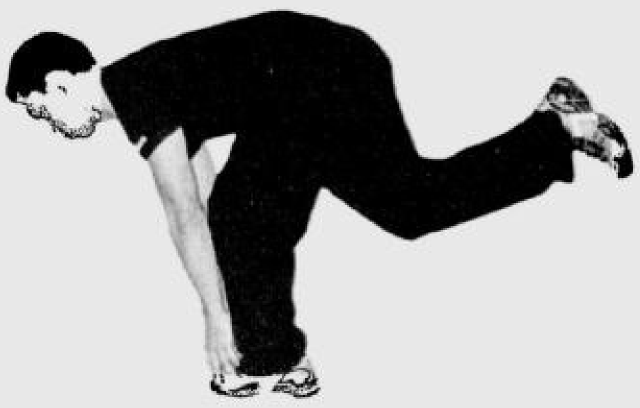
This is where the concept of "periodization" comes in. This is a method of alternating intense and less intense periods of exercise so the body has time to recover.

Note: FitPhil (formerly AFPP) will hold a fitness seminar July 22. Topics will include fitness training for kids and the elderly. Call Joy at 9202762 or 0917-5181202 or visit www.fitnessphilippines.org.

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

One-legged tie-your-shoelace lunge



STRENGTHENS THE legs, buttocks and core muscles

Equipment:

None

Exercise technique:

1. Stand on one leg.
2. Bend down and reach for your shoe as if you are tying your laces.
3. Straighten up to starting position.

Performance tips:

1. Keep spine neutral—neither arching nor rounding.
2. Avoid bringing knee past your toes.
3. Modify this exercise by reaching a little past knee level instead of all the way down to the shoelaces.

Repetitions:

10-15 repetitions per leg

De-stressing tips for the weary

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

There are some questions you can ask yourself to see if you are 'running on empty'

THIS COLUMN IS DEDICATED TO THE scores of people out there who find themselves exhausted at the end of the day. Or, worse, who get up in the morning with no animo or zest for life.

Running on empty

- How much of yourself is invested in what you do each moment?
- Do you find that every day is just like any other day?
- If you were to rate your energy level from 1 to 10, what would yours be?
- When the day begins, is there a frown on your face or a smile?
- At day's end, is your frown deeper or your smile brighter?
- Is your breathing shallow and rapid or deep and regulated?
- Do you suffer from chronic headaches?
- Is your sleep fitful and restless?
- Are you irritable or tolerant in your daily encounter with people ?
- Do you answer the phone in a brash or calm manner?
- Do you have violent thoughts?

These are some of the questions you need to ask yourself to see if you are getting to that stressful state called "running on empty." If you find you have the symptoms, then it is time to address the causes.

First aid

There is first aid available to those who believe they are on the verge of succumbing to stress.

1. Sit down. A standing position is more combative.
2. Take a glass of water. Sip a calming tea like chamomile, mint, lavender rose.
3. Close your eyes.
4. Breathe slowly.
5. Listen to relaxing music.
6. Splash chilled water on your face.
7. Allow an ice cube to melt in your mouth.
8. Get an ice pack and put it on your head (until your foul mood subsides).
9. Look at yourself in the mirror. If the mood is now a rage, slap yourself on each cheek. (Seriously!)
10. If the mood is depressed, force yourself to laugh while facing the mirror. Recall the funniest incident in your life and remember the feeling of lightness you experienced!
11. Try an aromatherapy inhalation. Get a bowl of hot water, place two drops of eucalyptus, mint, lavender or orange. Inhale and enjoy.
12. Get out. Try the great outdoors. Go for a walk. Walk into a park.
13. Lean against a tree.

Tree therapy

A tree can be your best doctor. Find a big tree. Hug it for a minute. Close your eyes and visualize that your problems are absorbed by the tree. Nature has the power to heal you.

14. Get a pail of hot water and soak your feet for three minutes. The relaxation effect is instant.

15. Go to a spa. Pamper yourself with a relaxing massage. Make sure they use a massage oil that is coconut- or nut seed-based, not mineral-based. (An affordable locally-made brand is Cocozen in various aromatherapy scents, available in Mercury Drug, Watsons. Try lavender, peppermint or eucalyptus.

16. Exercise. Walk, dance or go to the gym.

De-stress visualization

Sit in a quiet corner of your office or home. Close your eyes. Take no calls. Receive no visitors. Make this your silent session. Now this is important. Imagine you are on your dream vacation—on a cruise ship, an idyllic beach or mountain get-away, atop the Eiffel Tower or by the Great Wall of China, or in the middle of a vineyard surrounded by grapes at harvest time… Whatever you wish, allow it to be real for you now. Hold that thought for 10 minutes. See yourself happy and smiling.

Boosters

Rev up.

- Don't skip breakfast. Change your morning routine by having more than just coffee in the morning. Studies show missing breakfast can be detrimental to your mental abilities. Have a glass of fruit or vegetable juice, a slice of fruit and wheat toast with a little honey. Or take a small bowl of oatmeal or whole-grain low-sugar cereal.
- Take more brain food like fish and shellfish.
- Take a little sugar (if you're not diabetic). Two ounces of candy or chocolate will give you a boost.
- Low fat yogurt can also give you a gentle kick during the day.
- Take a cup of coffee for mental alertness and to lift your mood.
- You may need an extra thiamine if you are always tired or have poor concentration. Natural sources are poultry, liver, pork, salmon, beans, rice, whole grain products. Or take a supplement—1.2 mg for men, 1.1 mg for women is the recommended daily allowance (US RDA).

(Source: "Inner Cleansing Cures," FC&A Medical Publishing)

You're in charge

Whatever mood you may find yourself in, remember that you are the boss. You have the power to drive your blues away. Affirm: "I've got the power!"

Love and light!

You are invited to Celebrate Life with Cory Quirino & SM, July 30, Mall Of Asia, a sunrise run to sunset stroll, wellness and beauty event. Open to the public. Call 3674494 and look for Karen.

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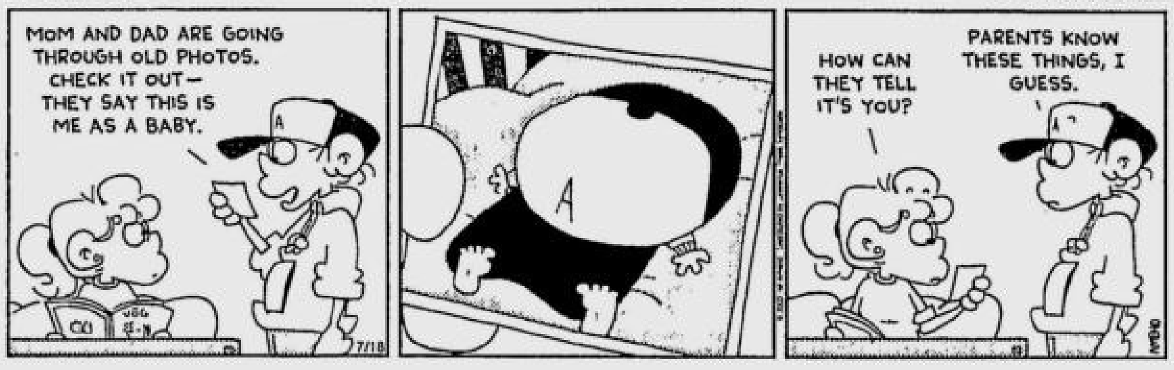
Raffles

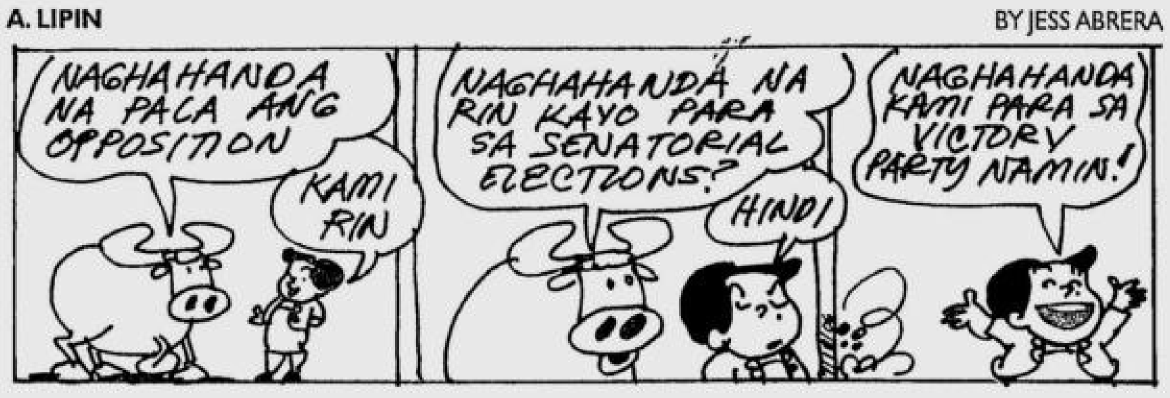
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


MOM AND DAD ARE GOING THROUGH OLD PHOTOS. CHECK IT OUT— THEY SAY THIS IS ME AS A BABY.
HOW CAN THEY TELL IT'S YOU?
PARENTS KNOW THESE THINGS, I GUESS.
7/18

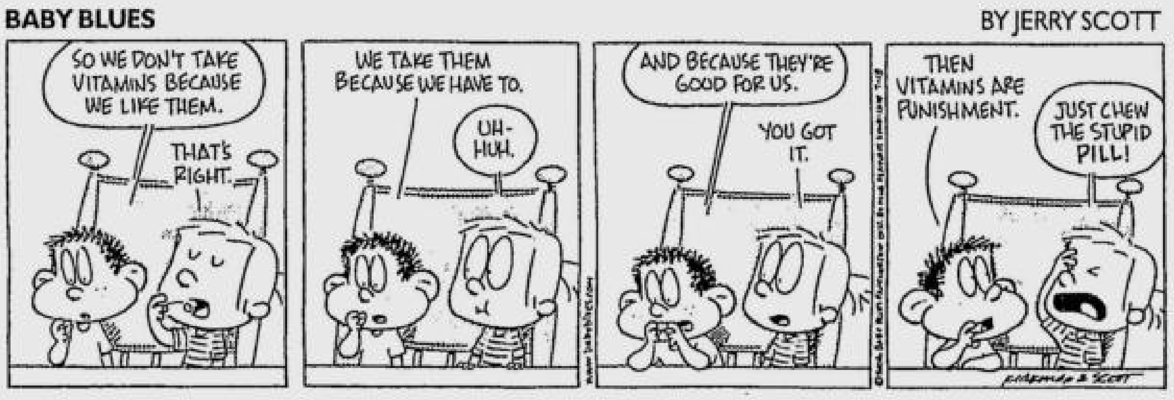
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


NAGHAHANDA NA PALA ANG OPPOSITION
KAMI RIN
NAGHAHANDA NA RIN KAYO PARA SA SENATORIAL ELECTIONS?
HINDI
NAGHAHANDA KAMI PARA SA VICTORY PARTY NAMIN!

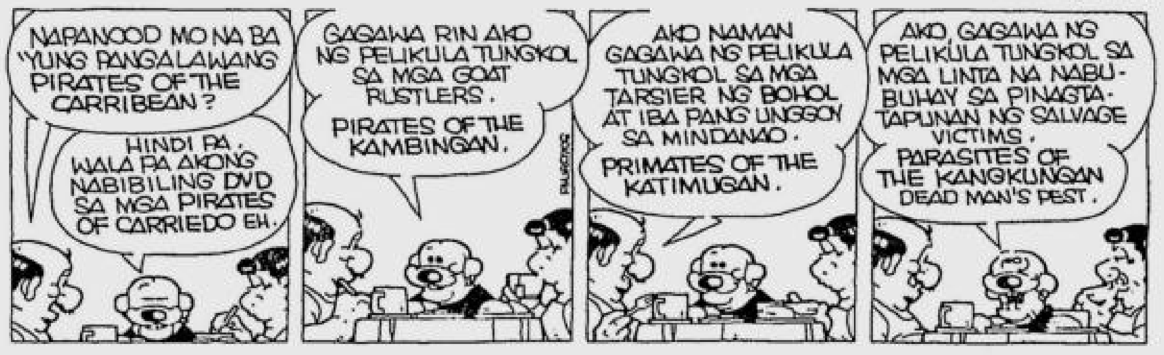
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


SO WE DON'T TAKE VITAMINS BECAUSE WE LIKE THEM.
THAT'S RIGHT.
WE TAKE THEM BECAUSE WE HAVE TO.
UH-HUH.
AND BECAUSE THEY'RE GOOD FOR US.
YOU GOT IT.
THEN VITAMINS ARE PUNISHMENT.
JUST CHEW THE STUPID PILL!

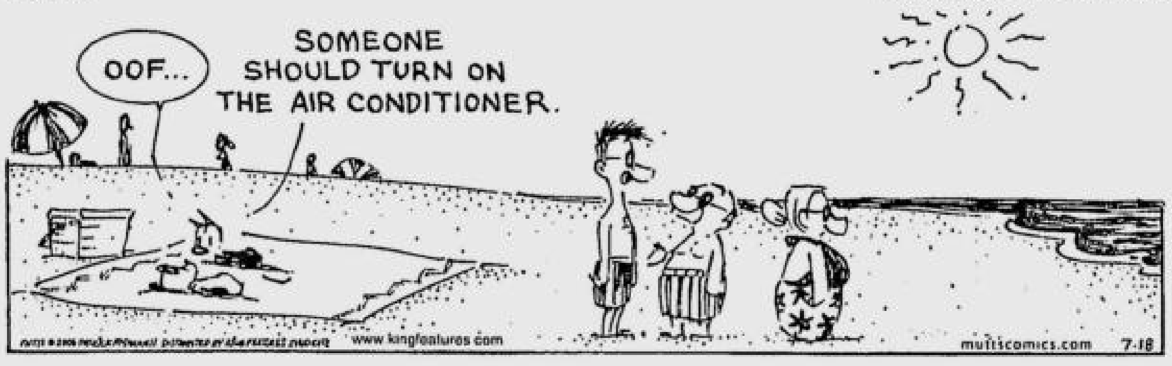
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAPANOOD MO NA BA 'YUNG PANGALAWANG PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN?
HINDI PA. WALA PA AKONG NABIBILING DVD SA MGA PIRATES OF CARRIEDO EH.
GAGAWA RIN AKO NG PELIKULA TUNGKOL SA MGA GOAT RUSTLERS.
PIRATES OF THE KAMBINGAN.
AKO NAMAN GAGAWA NG PELIKULA TUNGKOL SA MGA TARSIER NG BOHOL AT IBA PANG UNGGOY SA MINDANAO.
PRIMATES OF THE KATIMUGAN.
AKO, GAGAWA NG PELIKULA TUNGKOL SA MGA LINTA NA NABUBUHAY SA PINAGTATAPUNAN NG SALVAGE VICTIMS.
PARASITES OF THE KANGKUNGAN DEAD MAN'S PEST.

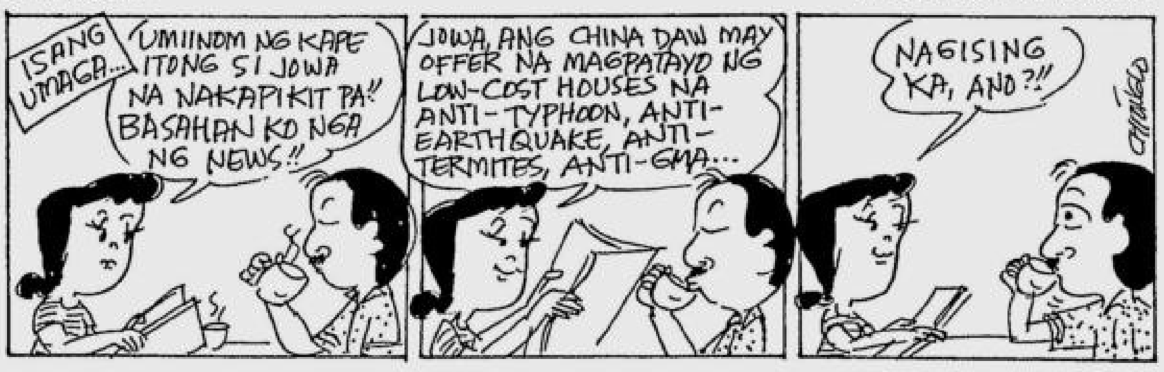
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OOF...
SOMEONE SHOULD TURN ON THE AIR CONDITIONER.
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com 7-18

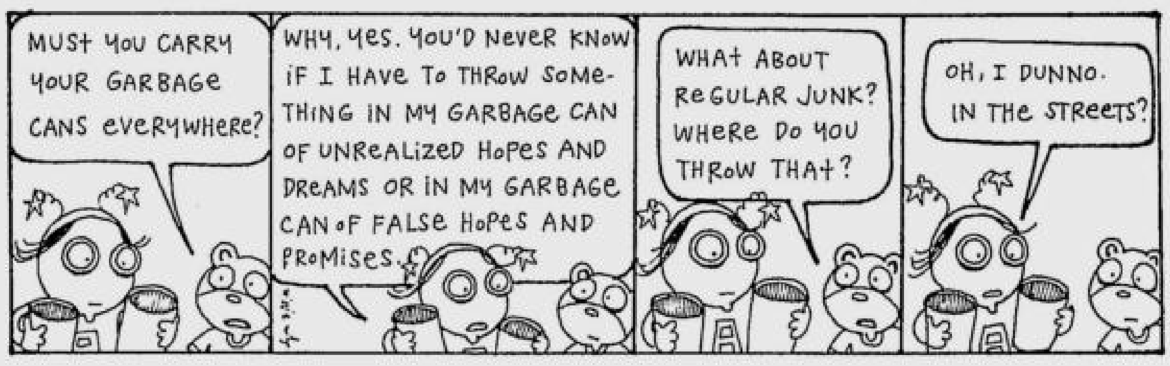
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ISANG UMAGA...
UMIINOM NG KAPE ITONG SI JOWA NA NAKAPIKIT PA!! BASAHAN KO NGA NG NEWS!!
JOWA, ANG CHINA DAW MAY OFFER NA MAGPATAYO NG LOW-COST HOUSES NA ANTI-TYPHOON, ANTI-EARTHQUAKE, ANTI-TERMITES, ANTI-GMA...
NAGISING KA, ANO?!!

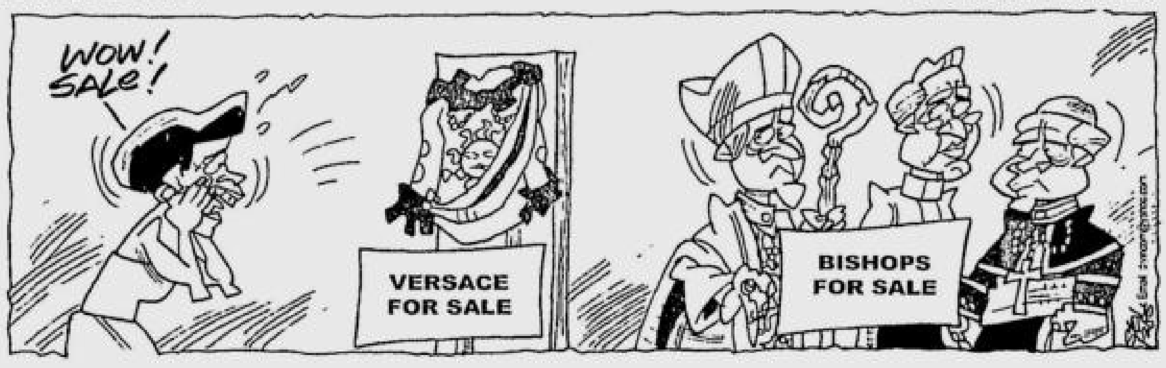
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


MUST YOU CARRY YOUR GARBAGE CANS EVERYWHERE?
WHY, YES. YOU'D NEVER KNOW IF I HAVE TO THROW SOMETHING IN MY GARBAGE CAN OF UNREALIZED HOPES AND DREAMS OR IN MY GARBAGE CAN OF FALSE HOPES AND PROMISES.
WHAT ABOUT REGULAR JUNK? WHERE DO YOU THROW THAT?
OH, I DUNNO. IN THE STREETS?

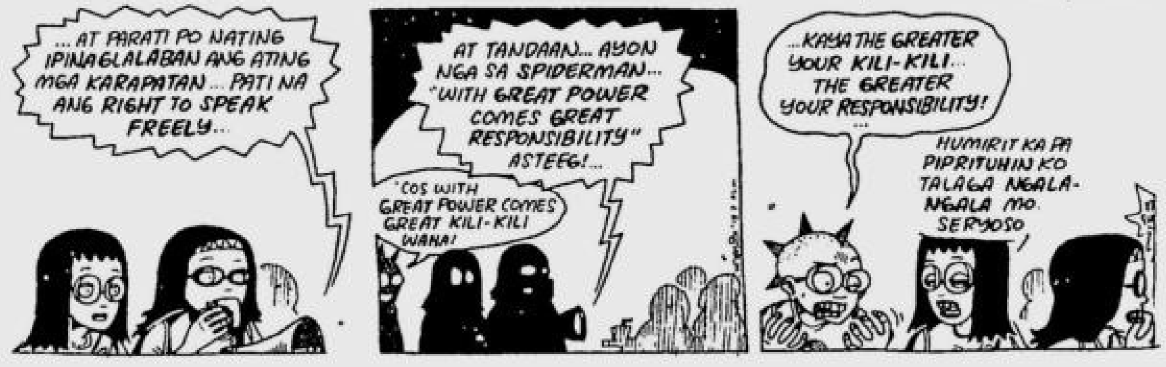
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


WOW! SALE!
VERSACE FOR SALE
BISHOPS FOR SALE

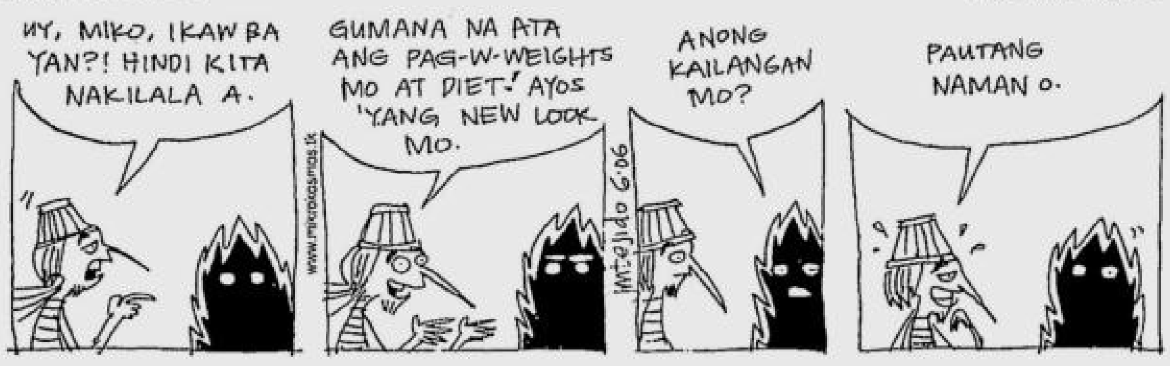
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


...AT PARATI PO NATING IPINAGLALABAN ANG ATING MGA KARAPATAN... PATI NA ANG RIGHT TO SPEAK FREELY...
AT TANDAAN... AYON NGA SA SPIDERMAN... "WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY" ASTEEG!...
'COS WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT KILI-KILI WAHA!
...KAYA THE GREATER YOUR KILI-KILI... THE GREATER YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!
...
HUMIRIT KA PA PIPIRITUHIN KO TALAGA NGALA-NGALA MO. SERYOSO.

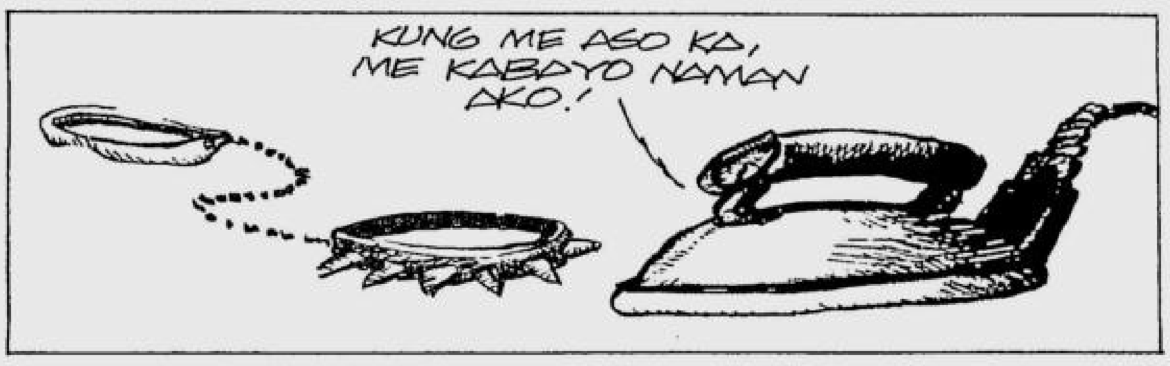
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


UY, MIKO, IKAW BA YAN?! HINDI KITA NAKILALA A.
GUMANA NA ATA ANG PAG-W-WEIGHTS MO AT DIET! AYOS 'YANG NEW LOOK MO.
ANONG KAILANGAN MO?
PAUTANG NAMAN O.
www.mikrokosmos.tk
tejido 6.06

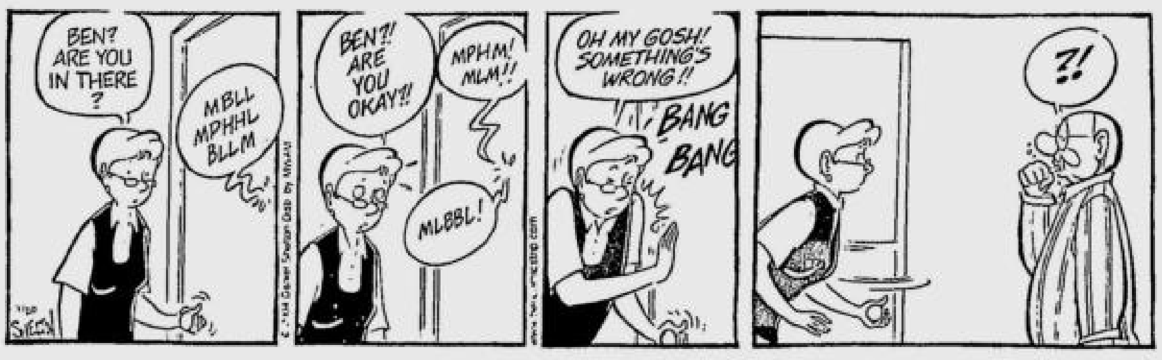
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


KUNG ME ASO KA, ME KABAYO NAMAN AKO!

BEN

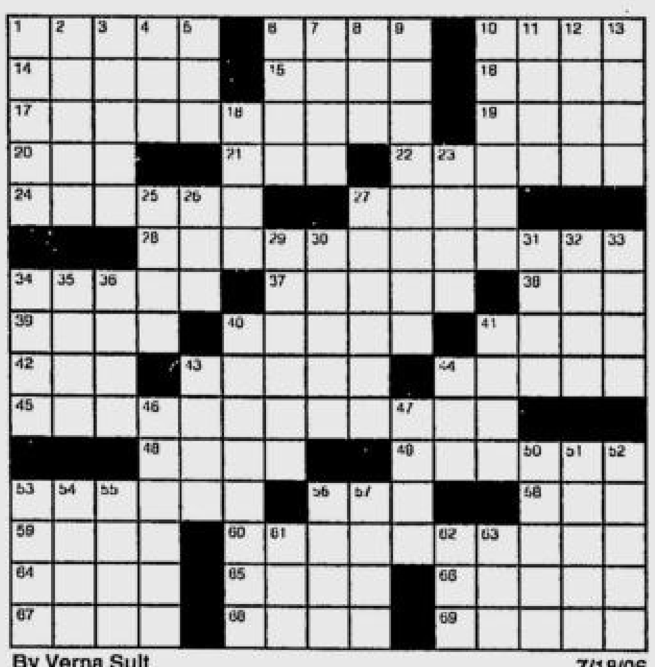
BY DANIEL SHELTON


BEN? ARE YOU IN THERE?
MBLL MPHHL BLLM
BEN?! ARE YOU OKAY?!
MPHM! MLM!!
MLBBL!
OH MY GOSH! SOMETHING'S WRONG!!
BANG BANG
?!

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Customary
6 High-five sound
10 Monopoly fee
14 Tot tender
15 One of Henry VIII's six
16 Big times
17 Sweet job at the fair?
19 Speak like Sylvester
20 College URL ending
21 Byrnes or Hall
22 Swoons
24 Become extinct
27 Scourge
28 Candy-flavored java?
34 Sudden outpouring
37 Superman's pal Jimmy
38 Kennel sound
39 Stable staple
40 Miserly failing
41 Tony Blair, for one
42 Appendage
43 Get on
44 Glances
45 Imperfect chocolates?
48 Sibilant sound
49 Small samples
53 Former Belgian airline
56 Manhattan sch.
58 Dos Passos novel
59 Swiss artist Paul
60 Clues for candymakers?
64 Work for
65 Equally divided
66 Zodiac sign
67 Mental faculties
68 Certain grains
69 Weighty

DOWN
1 Waiting for dinner
2 Riyadh resident
3 Excessive
4 "Brokeback Mountain" director Lee
5 Bleaching agent
6 Tater
7 Alan or Cheryl
8 Uru. neighbor
9 Introduced
10 Alleviation
11 "__ Brockovich"
12 Cartoonist Thomas
13 Recipe amts.
18 Bridges or Daniels
23 Nameless auth.
25 Mel and Ed of baseball
26 Opponent
27 Assails
29 Public meetings
30 Nicholas Gage memoir
31 Token value
32 Composer Satie
33 Small newts
34 Drench
35 __-mutuel
36 $ dispensers
40 Filmy fabric
41 Porgy's partner
43 Chow __
44 Soup veggie
46 Lusters
47 Erwin and Gilliam
50 Barbary state
51 Sen. Kefauver
52 Flippant
53 Bias
54 Jai __
55 Ernie's pal
56 Leg punch
57 R.R. stops
61 Wall climber
62 Bad actor
63 "Silver" author Levin


1
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By Verna Sult
Silver Spring, MD
7/18/06

Monday's Puzzle Solved

F	U	M	E	■	A	R	T	S	■	W	A	G	E	D
A	S	I	A	■	B	A	R	T	■	O	P	I	N	E
T	U	N	G	■	E	T	U	I	■	V	E	N	T	S
S	A	U	L	S	T	E	I	N	B	E	R	G	■	■
O	L	S	E	N	■	■	S	K	I	■	■	E	S	P
■	■	■	S	O	L	O	M	O	N	B	U	R	K	E
H	I	C	■	■	S	O	S	■	■	A	M	A	I	N
E	D	U	A	R	D	O	■	D	I	M	P	L	E	D
D	E	R	M	A	■	■	R	O	N	■	■	E	S	S
D	A	V	I	D	B	R	E	N	N	E	R	■	■	■
A	S	E	■	■	B	A	D	■	■	E	A	T	U	P
■	■	B	I	B	L	I	C	A	L	K	I	N	G	S
B	L	A	D	E	■	S	E	R	A	■	S	O	L	S
R	O	L	L	S	■	E	N	I	D	■	I	T	I	S
A	X	L	E	S	■	S	T	A	Y	■	N	E	S	T

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7/18/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: There's no question that you have a deep, inborn courage. You face whatever is ahead of you. Once you choose a cause, you're committed. Your ethics and priorities are clear to you, especially within a group. Your organizational abilities improve enormously in your late 20s. A beautiful, social, stimulating year awaits you. Relationships are favored.

Birthdate of: Vin Diesel, actor; Nelson Mandela, politician; John Glenn, astronaut/senator.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You can improve your relationships with family members—especially parents—in the next few weeks. You might also enjoy redecorating where you live.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Your social life will definitely pick up in the next few weeks. You're starting to see that there's a considerable amount of love in your everyday life.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): In the next few weeks, investments can work out well, especially investments in art or objects of beauty. New opportunities to earn money (as well as spend it) will arise.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Today, Venus moves into your sign, where it will stay for the next four weeks. You can more easily make peace with others during this time. You want to get along with others—it's that simple.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You feel unusually selfless this week, and for the next few weeks. You might help take care of a loved one who needs assistance, or you might work on behalf of others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): The next few weeks are a wonderful time to enjoy activities with friends and groups. Party with friends. Invite the gang over.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your career and your ability to promote your good name among your peers get a lovely boost in the next few weeks. You might be asked to work with design, layout, redecorating or some kind of art project.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Because your appreciation of beauty is heightened in the next month, give yourself a chance to test this. Visit galleries, museums and beautiful places.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Romantic relationships are beautifully stimulating in the next few weeks. You feel very affectionate. You can also attract money to you through others during this time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): The next month is one of the best times for all relationships—love affairs, partners, even relationships with your enemies! New love could enter your life now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your relations with coworkers, supervisors and employees can improve in the next few weeks. Your health and sense of well-being can also improve during this time.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Love and romance are quite cozy in the month ahead. You can get along smoothly with loved ones without feeling you have to surrender your identity.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

1					6			5
			4		3			
	3	7	8			2	9	
3	6					5	8	
	7	8					3	1
	4	2			7	6	1	
			3		2			
8			5					2

Difficulty Level ★★

7/18

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

4	7	2	3	1	6	9	8	5
1	3	8	5	7	9	2	4	6
9	5	6	2	8	4	1	3	7
2	8	7	1	6	3	4	5	9
3	9	5	7	4	2	8	6	1
6	4	1	9	5	8	3	7	2
8	1	9	6	3	7	5	2	4
5	6	3	4	2	1	7	9	8
7	2	4	8	9	5	6	1	3

Difficulty Level ★

Answers to FAQs

Part I

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

IN CONNECTION WITH an article she is writing for Katipunan Magazine, an independent publication of the Ateneo de Manila University, Julian Qua sent in a number of questions concerning my life and work.

Since many of the questions she asked were also often asked by other people, I thought it best to answer them in this column.

Personal questions:

When did you first realize you wanted to pursue this kind of "career"? Why?

You are right in putting the term "career" in quotation marks, for I do not consider what I do to be a career. It really started as a hobby. I was interested in those areas that science considered to be out of its scope, thereby completely ignoring them.

Events that cannot be explained scientifically are considered to be "anomalous" phenomena or "paranormal." I believe, however, that such events are normal and natural. And so I sought to prove this theory.

In time, my hobby or avocation became a vocation. I have now written 15 books on the subject over a period of 25 years. I also have three more manuscripts under preparation.

Who is the most interesting person you've met? Why?

There are several persons I've personally met whom I consider to be most interesting. One was Pope John Paul II. I met him at the Vatican in 1986 in a special audience. I spoke with him for less than two minutes, but it was a most memorable meeting with the head of the Catholic Church who would later be nominated for sainthood.

Imagine meeting personally a would-be saint? It's not every day you meet one, you know.

The other most interesting persons I'd met were:

- Uri Geller, the Israeli psychic who became famous for bending spoons through telekinesis. I met him in Düsseldorf, Germany, in 1994.
- Luis Gasparetto, the amazing mediumistic painter from Brazil. He can paint a great masterpiece in less than 10 minutes while in a trance. I met him in Argentina in the 1990s.
- Olof Jonsson of Sweden, probably one of the greatest psychics of modern times. I met him in the Philippines during the administration of President Cory Aquino. He helped Marcos find the Yamashita treasure. He died several years ago in Las Vegas.
- Dr. Russell Targ, who led the scientific experiments on remote viewing at Stanford Research Institute (now called SRI International) in Menlo Park, California. He studied for 20 years and scientifically proved the existence of this mental ability.

There are others I consider very interesting personalities that I've met, like Tom Johanson, famous spiritual healer from England; Deepak Chopra of the United States; Dr. Hiroshi Motoyoma of Japan; Dr. Hans Naegeli of Switzerland; Dr. Alfred Stelter of Germany; and Dr. Karl Pribram, a neuroscientist from the US.

Who is the person you admire the most?

Aside from the above mentioned individuals, I would say I admire most Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Epictetus, Homer and Shakespeare.

What is your most out-of-this world experience so far?

When I spontaneously went out of my physical body in 1975 and saw my body from the ceiling. I was looking down at my physical body while suspended or floating near the ceiling. That was the strangest thing that ever happened to me, my first conscious out-of-body experience or astral projection.

It was this experience that proved to me the existence of the astral plane and our ability to travel in that realm.

If you could have any kind of power, what would it be and why?

To run faster than a speeding bullet, stop a train with my bare hands, jump a building in a single leap, and have X-ray vision. Ooops! That sounds like Superman! No, seriously, I am happy with whatever I have right now. They are not much, but they are above-average abilities.

I think it is wrong to pursue power for the sake of power alone. Power should only be used as a stepping stone toward a higher purpose.

Next week: More questions about psychic gifts and how to develop them will be answered and discussed

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CEREMONIAL toss by Kennie Asuncion, Rachel Bacsal (marketing manager, JVC Philippines), Kazue Salud (general manager, JVC), lawyer Faustino Salud (chair, JVC), Hideyuki Takato (president and CEO, JVC), Dennis Salud (board member, JVC) and Kennevic Asuncion

Smashing badminton championship games

JVC, ONE OF THE LEADING NAMES IN consumer electronics, celebrated its 10th year in the Philippines with the recent JVC Open Badminton Championships at the Glorietta Activity Center.

Actor Richard Gomez, Olympic silver medalist Minarti Timur and Chinese junior champ Wang Lili, and Bingo Bonanza Corp. president and CEO Albee Benitez played an exhibition match.

Paolo Ballesteros and Sylvia Sanchez tied with Emilio Garcia and Glydel Mercado in the first Celebrity Mixed Doubles match. The team of Jestoni Alarcon and Angelu de Leon was first in the second Celebrity Mixed Doubles, beating Daisy Reyes and Onyok Velasco. Sylvia Sanchez and Mercado dominated the Celebrity Women's Doubles.

For the Juniors 16 and Under division, winners were: Peter Gabriel Magnaye and Reyne Thraitsckades of Victor-Pcome (Mixed Doubles); Abigail Marie Garcia of JLTC/Battledore/PNP Badminton Club and Mia Villarin of Anvil Badminton Club (Girls' Doubles); Peter Gabriel Magnaye and Patrique Francisco Magnaye of Victor-Pcome (Boys' Doubles); Karyn Velez of Golden Shuttle Foundation (Girls' Singles); and Ronnel Estanislao of Allied BF/Chaopai/LSCA (Boys' Singles).

Director of L-Time Studio Lingling Yao and National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation president Jopet Sison were first in the CEO Mixed Doubles. Philippine Star president and CEO Miguel Belmonte and News Net Asia editor in chief Haru Shikaya won in the first CEO Men's Doubles while Asian badminton champion Rudi Wijaya and Gen. Edgar Aglipay (Ret.) won in the second CEO Men's Doubles.

In the corporate event, Team Philippine Star was champion, with Team Meralco, as first runner-up; and Team Robinsons Land Corporation and Team AB Leisure, second runners-up.

ONYOK Velasco and Daisy Reyes

NOLI Cabahug and Agnes Barredo with JVC Philippines GM Kazue Salud

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More than just playtime

AWARD-WINNING COMPOSER Louie Ocampo and wife Jojo, a senior bank vice president, said The Little Gym (TLG) was better for kids than traditional nursery schools.

The Ocampos said they enrolled their youngest child, now three, at TLG's Terrific Tots program because they wanted to make sure his motor skills were developed and he had good balance.

The Terrific Tots program lets kids learn about themselves and those around them through play and exploration, providing a safe and stimulating environment, trained and caring mediators, and a rich variety of resources.

Gym time promotes interaction, fosters cooperation and builds strength as well as flexibility, endurance, coordination and balance.

The Terrific Tots program, which holds classes three times a week, includes Free Play for students to explore the gym at their leisure and try out equipment; Creative Movement, wherein kids imitate or interpret how a particular thing moves or behaves; or Gym Format, which incorporates developmental gymnastics practices geared to honing specific skills.

The curriculum also includes Arts and Crafts, Reading Readiness, Number Readiness, Writing Readiness, Science and Story time and Group Activity.

The Ocampos said, through TLG's Terrific Tots program, their son had become comfortable in the company of adults, more articulate and independent, had more balance and coordination.

TLG has branches in Alabang (8504060), Makati (8151735), Pasig-Mandaluyong (6372463) and Alabang (8504060).

LOUIE and Jojo Ocampo say 3-year-old Quito is more articulate and independent, and has more balance and coordination because of the Terrific Tots program of The Little Gym.

Golf club holds first tourney

GOLFERS FROM GLOBE TELECOM participated in the recent Globe Golf Cup at the Ayala Greenfield Estates Golf and Leisure Club in Calamba, Laguna.

The first tournament organized by the Globe Golf Club and spearheaded by founder James Ileto of the International Services department drew more than 90 players and guests.

Globe Platinum and Globe Solutions were major sponsors, with Logica CMG, Nokia, Siemens, Ericsson, Eltek, Emerson, SMS Inet, Nortel, Tomen/Indigo, Commverge, and TGM/MCI.

Awardees were Manny Aligada (most accurate drive), Iris Landicho (nearest to the pin), and Dennis Roque and Maricar Bernales of HP (longest drive). Andrew Oh was champion in the guest division, with Francis Jimenez as first runner-up.

Bernales ruled the ladies division, with Bing Barraquias, as first runner-up; and Maridol Ylanan, as second runner up. Other winners were Willy Serrano (Class A), Blums Pineda (Class B), and Juno Cedeno (Class C). Romy Hechanova, Alex Samson and Lance Martinez were second, respectively.

Awards were given to Jeffrey Lim for lowest net and Marx Hernandez, lowest gross.

Membership in the Globe Golf Club is open to all Globe and Innove employees.

WINNERS of the tournament with Innove CEO Gil Genio

MEDICard, The Healthcare I Deserve!

Take Charge Doc!

What is cholesterol and does it affect blood pressure?

Cholesterol is a waxy, fat-like substance that is made in the liver and is also found in animal foods that we eat like meat, butter, dairy products (milk, cheese) and eggs. It is necessary for important body functions such as making hormones, building cell walls and protecting nerves. There are two types of cholesterol: the **GOOD** (HDL or High Density Lipoprotein) found in fish and vegetable oil, and the **BAD** (LDL or Low Density Lipoprotein) found in animal products. Cholesterol is broken down and is used up by the body cells, and once these cells had enough, the "leftover" bad cholesterol becomes the blood cholesterol. These leftovers are carried by the good cholesterol from the blood back to the liver to be eliminated from the body. When we have a low level of good cholesterol, only a little amount of the bad cholesterol is brought back to the liver, hence, most of it is left in the blood which leads to high blood cholesterol. The main danger of high blood cholesterol is that fatty deposits may form and accumulate in the blood vessels, decreasing their diameter. The flow of blood and oxygen to the tissues of the body becomes restricted. As a reflex, the heart pumps blood double time with a higher pressure in attempt to overcome this restriction and eventually causing what we call **high blood pressure**. To lower the bad cholesterol level, we have to eat more fruits and vegetables, fish oil and food rich in fiber and proper exercise.

This week's answer to our feature question was provided by our medical service provider from Antipolo City, Dr. Adrian Oclarino San Juan. Doc SJ is a graduate of medicine from De La Salle University-Health & Science Campus in 1998 and later took his specialization training for Internal Medicine in 2003. He is a member of the Philippine College of Physicians and Philippine Medical Association. He is married and blessed with 2 children. MEDICard members may visit him for consultation services at Antipolo City Medical Hospital during Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays from 9am to 12noon.

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

Nicky

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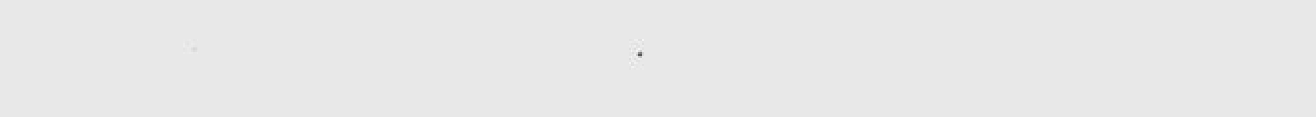

NASAL CONGESTION

Decongest. Decolgen.®

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Chlorphenamine Maleate
Paracetamol

Decolgen® Forte
Caplet

Phenylpropanolamine HCl
Paracetamol

No-Drowse Decolgen®
Caplet

If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

BRILLIANT beauty Peggy Angeles, vice president-sales and marketing, Shangri-La International Hotel Management Ltd.

BUSINESSMAN Charles L. and mom, dazzling Amparito Lhuillier

PHILIPPINE Tatler editor in chief Anton San Diego and Desmond Hatton, GM, Shangri-La's Barr Al Jissah Resort and Spa, Muscat

BPI president Aurelio "Gigi" Montinola and ultra-glamorous woman of style Vicki Zubiri

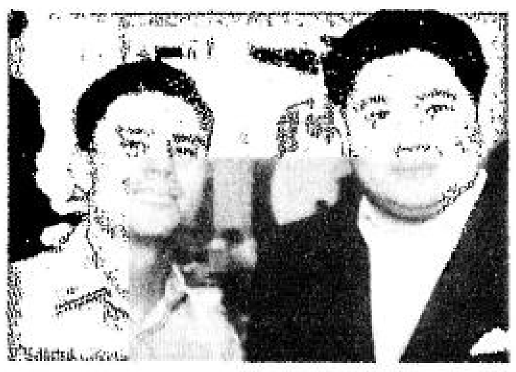
DEEDA Garcia and and civic-oriented person Marietta Santos

ATTRACTIVE, successful entrepreneur Ruth Velasco-Co and Alex Van Hagen, in front of the camera for a change

'Au revoir' to a 'palangga'

METRO Society's Raul Manzano, PDI and Philippine Tatler's Maurice Arcache (as in *moi*), prince of *alta moda* Inno Sotto, fashion savvy Jenni Epperson and Philweb Corp.'s Dennis Valdes

HOTSHOTS. Philippe Caretti, new Makati Shangri-La VP/general manager; Tom Zita, Kuok Philippine Properties country head; Makati's popular Mayor Jejomar Binay; and outgoing Makati Shangri-La general manager Jarlath Lynch

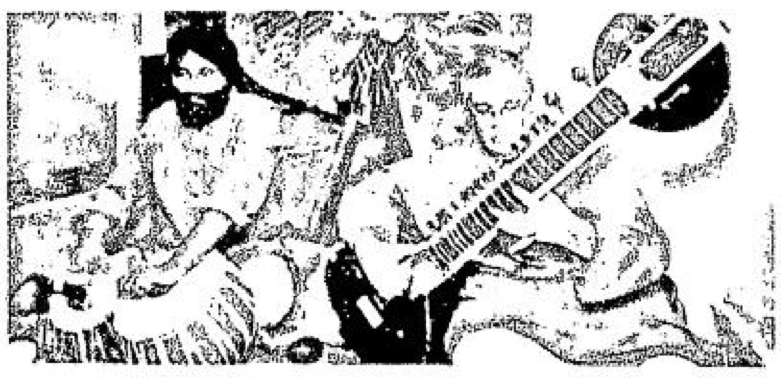


SHOPWISE'S young top honcho, Donnie Tantoco, and cousin Anton Huang, Store Specialists Inc. executive vice president

TAIPAN Edward Kuok, hotshot chair, Shangri-La Asia Limited

BOLLYWOOD'S interior designer Noel Bernardo and wife Yolanda

PAST Phil-Indian Chamber of Commerce president Vishnu Hathiramani and the evening's special guest, Indian Ambassador Navrekha Sharma



SITAR player Joey Valenciano and CJ Wasu, on tabla, are regular performers in Bollywood.

HARESH Gurnamal, Lorna Verano-Yap and Ram Sadwani

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

ONE OF THE LEADING DELUXE hotels in the city, the Makati Shangri-La, gave a fabulous farewell bash for one of the most brilliant hotel icons who redefined the art of hotel service in the Philippines, none other than **Jarlath Lynch.**

After three super successful years with the Shang, outgoing general manager and my *palangga* Jarlath is moving on to conquer the magnificent Shangri-La Hotel Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia as its mega area general manager, dahlings.

For this momentous exit, and to welcome the hotel's tall, dashing and debonair new vice president and general manager, Monsieur **Philippe Caretti**, a spectacular cocktail party was given at the grand Lobby Lounge of the hotel.

Although it was meant to be intimate, almost everyone in Cosmo *Manille* just had to say "thank you and good luck" to our dear friend Jarlath.

This hottest ticket of the week had champagne overflowing. Executive chef **Christopher Romine** prepared excellent canapes.

All present and accounted for, *palanggas* were the other magnum asset of the Shangri-La chain, handsome **Tom Zita**, hot chair of Shangri-La Hotels & Resorts Philippines (who will also leave the country soon), together with the gorgeous power lady of Shangri-La Hotels & Resorts, **Peggy Angeles**; and loads of hot-hot GMs of Shangri-La.

The Cebu pack that jetted in included Cebu's dazzling gem, **Amparito Lhuillier**, and accessory designer **Butch Carungay**.

The inimitable **Marietta Santos**, a regular patron of the hotel, was looking so sad to see her dear friend move to KL. Mmm, I wonder why... but then, I think I know why, dahlings.

Also there were ultra fashionable sea princess **Tessa Prieto-Valdes** and hubby, super nice **Dennis Valdes**, who just returned from their romantic 12th anniversary honeymoon in Boracay; Rustan's VP for fashion, adorable **Gigi Mabanta**; and Singapore Airline's darling, **Rita Dy**, chatting with her pal **Grace Glory Go.**

Trying to stay behind the scene were Jarlath's favorite girl Friday, **Joy Wassmer**, Makati Shangri-La's cyber smart director of communication; and **Bingbing Lingao**, director of events, though they were making sure the evening flowed well.

It did, *palanggas*. In fact, it flowed perfectly that some invitees had to be practically swept out of the lobby. Now, dahlings, that's partying Shangri-La-style.

In Bollywood

"Aap sabkha swagat he!" ("Welcome to all of you!") was the warm Indian greeting of the evening's super host, as well as all the staff and crew, of one of my favorite restos, Bollywood Bistro Bar at Glorietta 3, during its fun first anniversary celebration.

As *moi* breezed in, there he was, the main man, LJC or **Larry Cruz**, no less, thanking us and tons of his loyal clientele and guests for our patronage and for a successful year of magical Indian culture experienced through Bollywood's awesome Indian food, music and entertainment, *palanggas*.

As vibrant as India's colorful culture is Bollywood's yummy menu laid out for the guests to really dig into that evening.

A must-have is the Rogan Josh mutton, surrounded with *massala* sauce, that melts in your mouth. The latest addition to the menu is Pizzanaan, an Indian-Filipino fusion pizza with several choices of toppings on Indian leavened bread.

Invitees stayed on and on, entertained by hypnotic music and hot belly dancing, while the famous *munitos* drink of Larry C.'s Havana kept us all on a roll, dahlings.

Located at the 3/L, Greenbelt 3, Bollywood Bistro Bar features murals of famous Bollywood icons and plays magnetic Indian music, *palanggas*. For info and reservations, do call 7573537.

Success story

At the young age of 36, dashing French man **Franck Dubarry** established the now world-renowned TechnoMarine watch, a fantastic brand whose "unexpected marriage of elements might be a metaphor for the ingenious founder himself," said successful entrepreneur, good-looking **Raffy Florencio**, hotshot president of TechnoTime Retailers Corp., no less.

While working for a bachelor's degree in law in Aix-en-Provence, Franck spent summer vacations at the wonderful Club Med as a diving and sailing instructor, deepening his love for the sea.

He initially went into advertising, founding his own agency whose clients included some renowned French brands like Naf Naf, Chevignon, Gian Alberto Caporale, Blanc Bleu and Nespresso, *palanggas*,

Après years of helping build up prestige consumer brands, he decided to sell his successful agency and created his own prestige consumer brand, TechnoMarine. The rest is history, dahlings.

Today, only a few years *après* the first TechnoMarine hit the market, Franck remains a consummate man of communication, ideas and designs. TechnoMarine is securely anchored in its reputation as an "industry leader in iconoclastic" and fashionable great timepieces, *palanggas*.

During their brief visit to Cosmo *Manille*, Franck and **Serge Choukron**, managing director of TechnoMarine Asia-Pacific, were honored with an exquisite dinner at that hot Cuisine of Club Embassy by **Rafael Florencio**, head of the company that exclusively distributes TechnoMarine in the Philippines.

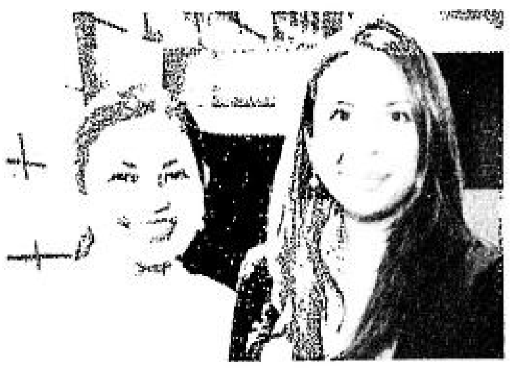
Après cocktails and dinner, Franck Dubarry expressed his "sincere appreciation of the company's integrity and dedication to the brand. I also hope to pay another visit in the country early next year to get a better idea of what the Filipino TechnoMarine enthusiasts expect of my timepieces."

Now, *palanggas*, that is something to watch out for, *'di bala?*

Check out the eye-catching, stylish TechnoMarine Collections at its Flagship store in Greenbelt 3 (tel. 7573975); TechnoMarine Boutique in SM Megamall Bldg. A (6327491); Rafael Jewelry Stores in Edsa Shangri-La Plaza Mall (6363399); Makati Shangri-La Hotel (8138501); My Diamond, Glorietta 4 (7571086); and soon at Gateway.

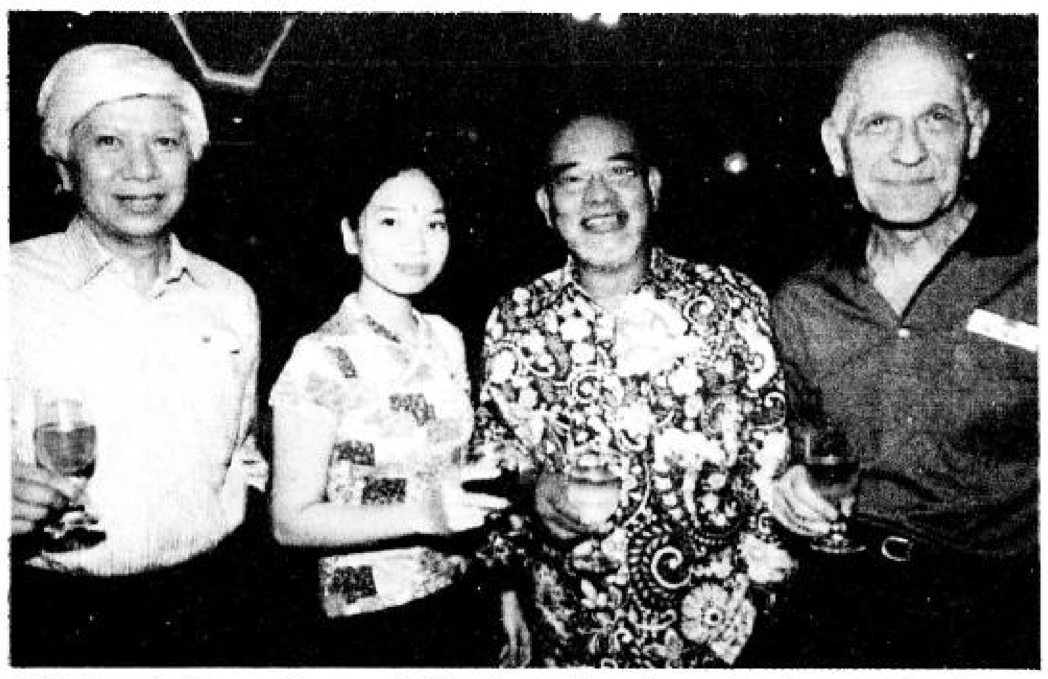
BMW Philippines' top man Dr. Joerg Breuer and Cesar Virtusio, Dresdner Bank chief representative

JOSÉ Cuisia and everyone's favorite, HSBC president Warner Manning



LIFESTYLE Asia's Sari Yap and Eliza R. Valtos

KAT de los Santos-Florencio



ERNIE Fajardo, Eymane Bacasman, LCC main man Larry Cruz and restaurateur Peter Jentes

REX Mendoza; Renato Florencio, Techno Time Retailers Corp. chair; Tommy Florencio; Mia Florencio; the honoree, Franck Dubarry, founder of TechnoMarine; Raffy Florencio, Techno Time Retailers Corp. president; and Serge Choukron, TechnoMarine Asia-Pacific managing director